

LONDON- WEST MIDLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Volume 5 | Technical Appendices

CFA15 | Greatworth to Lower Boddington
Baseline report (CH-001-015)
Cultural heritage

November 2013

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Department
for Transport

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1 Introduction

1.1 Structure of the cultural heritage appendices

1.1.1 The cultural heritage appendices for the Greatworth to Lower Boddington community forum area (CFA15) comprise:

- baseline reports (this appendix);
- a gazetteer of heritage assets (Volume 5: Appendix CH-002-015);
- an impact assessment table (Volume 5: Appendix CH-003-015); and
- survey reports (Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-015).

1.1.2 Maps referred to throughout the cultural heritage appendices are contained in the Volume 5, Cultural Heritage Map Book.

1.2 Content and scope

1.2.1 This baseline provides the evidence base against which the assessment of assets that may be affected by the Proposed Scheme can be determined. It contains information about known and potential heritage assets from a variety of sources and presents a chronological description and discussion of the development of the study area, placing assets within their historical and archaeological context

1.3 Study area

1.3.1 CFA15 lies primarily within the South Northamptonshire District of Northamptonshire and comprises parts of the parishes of Helmdon, Greatworth, Marston-St Lawrence, Thorpe Mandeville, Thenford, Sulgrave, Culworth, Edgcote, Wardington, Chipping Warden, Aston-le-Walls and Boddington. A small portion of Cherwell District of Oxfordshire lies within the extreme western and north-western part of the study area. This includes parts of the parishes of Cropredy and Claydon.

1.3.2 All non-designated and designated assets within the land required for construction of the Proposed Scheme and within 500m of it have been detailed in this baseline assessment. In addition designated heritage assets have been examined within the zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV).

1.3.3 All identified assets are listed in Volume 5: Appendix CH-002-015 and shown on Maps CH-01-047b to CH-01-54 and CH-02-025 to CH-02-27 (Volume 5, Cultural Heritage Map Book).

1.4 Data sources

1.4.1 Sources examined as part of this baseline assessment include published secondary sources, cartographic sources, historic environment record data for non-designated heritage assets and English Heritage National Heritage List data for designated assets. A full list of published sources can be found in Section 9 of this appendix.

1.5 **Surveys undertaken**

- 1.5.1 The following surveys were undertaken as part of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process:
- light detection and ranging (LiDAR) survey of the majority of the Proposed Scheme and land around it (see Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-015);
 - hyperspectral survey of the majority of the land around the Proposed Scheme (see Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-015); and
 - a programme of non-intrusive surveys including geophysical prospection and fieldwalking (see Volume 5: appendix CH-004-015).

2 Geology, topography and landform

- 2.1.1 The solid geology within CFA15 is principally made up of limestones and mudstones of Jurassic age. To the south of Thorpe Mandeville the Proposed Scheme passes over the Taynton and Forest Marble limestones of the Greater and Inferior Oolite. Here the solid bedrock is in parts covered by till deposits of Pleistocene age. These uplands form part of the Jurassic ridge, which runs from the Cotswolds in the south-west to Lincolnshire in the north-east.
- 2.1.2 Between Thorpe Mandeville and Lower Boddington these Jurassic rocks are generally mudstones, siltstones and limestones that make up the Lias formation.
- 2.1.3 The study area lies within a watershed between the River Cherwell to the south and west and the Rivers Nene and Great Ouse to the north-east and south-east. North of Lower Boddington the ground falls away towards the Warwickshire plain and the catchment of the River Itchen which feeds north and west to the Warwickshire Avon.
- 2.1.4 The area is generally characterised by an undulating landform becoming an upland plateau with incised valleys to the south of Thorpe Mandeville.
- 2.1.5 Human activity through all periods in the study area has largely been concentrated in the principal valley systems specifically within and immediately adjacent to the valley of the Cherwell. The Cherwell could have been used as a natural corridor for movement along its length but could also have formed a natural boundary. The valley of the Cherwell would also have provided significant resources from the riparian environment. As an area of watershed the higher ground flanking the Cherwell may also have provided access between the valley systems of the Cherwell, Nene and Great Ouse.
- 2.1.6 Within the valley of the Cherwell and its tributaries there will be a potential for waterlogged and other deposits of palaeoenvironmental significance. Archaeological deposits may also be relatively deeply buried in these localities by the accumulation of alluvium in the valley floors and colluvium on the lower slopes.
- 2.1.7 The present settlement character is predominantly one of rural settlement focussed on the nucleated villages and hamlets of Greatworth, Thorpe Mandeville, Sulgrave, Culworth, Chipping Warden, Aston-le-Walls, Lower Boddington and Upper Boddington.

3 Archaeological and historical background

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 This section provides a chronological overview of the archaeological evidence within the study area. This baseline review forms a contextualisation within which individual assets can be considered. Descriptions of all archaeological assets, whether designated or not, which lie wholly or partially within land required for the construction of the Proposed Scheme or within 500m of the edge of the land required for the construction of the Proposed Scheme are contained in the Gazetteer in Volume 5: Appendix CH-002-015. The assets are mapped on maps CH-01-047b to CH-01-053 (Volume 5, Cultural Heritage Map Book). The Gazetteer also considers all designated archaeological assets within the ZTV. The Gazetteer entries include assessments of value where appropriate.

3.2 Early prehistory (circa 500,000 - 1,500 BC)

- 3.2.1 The earliest evidence of human occupation in Britain dates from the lower Palaeolithic, circa 500,000 BC, onwards. This evidence comprises assemblages of flint tools, of a variety of typologies, and faunal remains. In general very few Palaeolithic artefacts have been recorded in the clayland landscape which comprises the landscape of the study area¹. Palaeolithic or Pleistocene artefacts and ecofacts generally comprise worked flint and faunal remains found on terrace gravels and contexts associated with major rivers or in cave sites.
- 3.2.2 Hominid activity throughout this period is characterised by small bands of hunter gatherers exploiting resources generally within a tundra landscape. In so doing they seldom established long term sites although sites have been identified in parts of south-east England that were possibly used as seasonal hunting camps.
- 3.2.3 Assemblages of Palaeolithic material have usually been recorded in lowland Britain reflecting both the exploitation of river valleys and coastal plains, glacial lakes and other potential hunting grounds as well as the preferential survival of remains in such locations. Assemblages are similarly centred in areas of particular geology near to areas with flint-bearing rocks suitable for tool-making.
- 3.2.4 The Study Area lies outside of the south-eastern zone in Britain and the areas of river gravels in which Palaeolithic remains are usually found. The Bytham River System lies close by to the north, however, and the study area comprises part of the higher ground that may have formed part of this ancient river system's watershed. It is possible therefore that the study area lay in an interfluvium that would have been exploited by early hominid populations.

¹ Silva, B., (2008), An Archaeological Resource Assessment of the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic in Buckinghamshire, Prepared for the Solent-Thames Research Framework Resource Assessment, *The Lower / Middle Palaeolithic Period*, Oxford Archaeology, Oxford.

- 3.2.5 The Mesolithic period begins with the end of the last glaciation and retreat of the ice sheets from Britain. For the earlier part of this period Britain was still attached to continental Europe by a plain extending across the North Sea. As the ice sheets melted this became flooded severing the connection. Following the end of the last glaciation there was a period of rapid warming lasting from circa 9,500 to circa 6,900 BC during which the landscape of Southern Britain became dominated by woodland of juniper, pine and birch. This was followed by a period from circa 6,900 BC during which a climate broadly comparable to today's became established and with it the development of extensive deciduous woodland dominated by oak and hazel with alder carr developing in wetlands and river valleys².
- 3.2.6 Human activity throughout this period continues to be characterised by small bands of hunter gatherers exploiting resources within a predominantly woodland landscape. There is increasing evidence that long term seasonal and even semi-permanent sites were established from which the resources of a region could be exploited. Towards the end of the Mesolithic there is some evidence for small scale exploitation of clearings for a limited amount of horticulture and potentially management of woodlands through deliberate clearance by fire to create improved hunting grounds³.
- 3.2.7 Evidence for Mesolithic (circa 10,000 – circa 4,000 BC) activity is usually restricted to scatters of bone, flint and other stone artefacts present within ploughsoil and subsoil. During the latter part of the Mesolithic, there is also evidence that crudely fired pottery was also coming into use⁴. The location of these scatters can, however, provide information on routes being used to access natural resources and the location of seasonal working and camping sites. Typically Mesolithic activity is identified where well drained soils cover upper slopes above watercourses. Locations on higher ground, and especially on low lying ridges at a woodland edge, would have provided a good location from which to watch for and hunt game. Routes along river valleys, across interfluvies and prominent ridge lines/escarpments would also likely have been used to move between different hunting territories and resource zones.
- 3.2.8 Mesolithic sites are often found in areas which have commanding views close to reliable water sources. The upper slopes on the edges of the valley of the Cherwell and its catchment would, therefore, be a typical location to find evidence for Mesolithic activity.
- 3.2.9 Fieldwalking in the vicinity of the scheduled monument of Edgcote Roman Villa (GLB138/144) retrieved a number of flint tools of Mesolithic date including examples of possibly earlier Mesolithic types. Possible Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flints including bladelets were also recovered during fieldwalking from the southern end of the ridge to the west of Culworth Grounds (GLB105) (Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-015 (CHoAB)) and in the fields near Greatworth Hall close to the possible ring ditch identified as a cropmark (GLB213) (Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-015 (OUoAB)).

² Sidell, J., Wilkinson, K & Cameron N, (2000), *The Holocene Evolution of the London Thames*, *MOLAS Monograph 5*, Museum of London, London.

³ Simmons, I., (1996), *The Environmental Impact of Later Mesolithic Cultures: Creation of Moorland Landscape in England and Wales*, Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh.

⁴ Mithen, S., (1994), *The Mesolithic Age in the Oxford Illustrated Prehistory of Europe*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

- 3.2.10 There is also evidence to indicate that a concentration of Mesolithic activity, in the form of finds of stone tools, is present within the watershed between the headwaters of the Cherwell and Great Ouse. It is possible that this area was a convenient area from which to exploit the resources available in each of these river systems.
- 3.2.11 The Neolithic period (circa 4,000 - circa 2,400 BC) sees the import to Britain of domesticated animals including sheep and cattle and the increasing use of domesticated wheat and new styles of pottery as well as evidence for relatively long distance trade contact to source raw materials. This period also sees an increasing importance placed on the treatment of the dead with burials and ritual sites becoming an important facet of the archaeological record.
- 3.2.12 The emphasis on ritual and the increased clearance of woodland suggests an increasing population with an associated development of an intra-communal society. By the beginning of the Bronze Age there is evidence for the development of an increasingly hierarchical society with higher status individuals being buried (often with grave goods) within round barrows. This development can often be related to the introduction of a new pottery style (Beakers) and the introduction of metalworking of copper, gold and bronze.
- 3.2.13 There remains no clear evidence of widespread clearance of woodland for arable cultivation during the Neolithic period and it is likely that Neolithic populations continued to follow a broadly nomadic life but clearing woodland glades to improve hunting, establish small areas of horticulture and to pasture herds/flocks.
- 3.2.14 Neolithic settlement activity appears to be at best episodic and can often be identified by the deposition of middens containing food refuse and pottery⁵. Typically such evidence is found on slopes overlooking watercourses as was usual during the Mesolithic period⁶.
- 3.2.15 The Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods in the Northamptonshire region appear to differ somewhat from the Thames Valley and Wessex to the south in their relative lack of identified ceremonial and burial monuments and complexes, such as mortuary enclosures, long barrows, causewayed enclosures, henge monuments, cursus monuments and round barrow cemeteries⁷. Evidence for settlement activity is also lacking for these periods.
- 3.2.16 Settlement evidence of later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (circa 2,400 - circa 1,500 BC) date typically comprises the buried remains of shallow pits or scrapes and burnt mounds (piles of fire cracked stones/pebbles with charcoal)⁸. Much evidence for the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods may have been lost through slope erosion or buried under later colluvium.

⁵ Allen T., Barclay, A. & Lamdin-Whymark, H., (2004), Opening the wood, making the land, The study of a Neolithic landscape in the Dorney Area of the Middle Thames Valley. In: *Towards a New Stone Age*, Oxford Archaeology, Oxford.

⁶ Hey, G. and Barclay, A., (2007), *The Thames Valley in the fifth and early fourth millennium cal BC: The appearance of domestication and the evidence for change*, Proceedings of the British Academy 144, London.

⁷ Oxford Archaeology and Buckinghamshire CC et al, Ongoing, *Solent Thames Research Framework: A framework for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*, Oxford Archaeology, Oxford.

⁸ These are a much debated type of feature that have been explained as diversely as communal cooking features to saunas. Typically they date to the Bronze Age but the date range extends from the late Neolithic through to Iron Age.

- 3.2.17 A number of long-barrows are known to lie near the headwaters of the Cherwell indicating that Neolithic ceremonial/burial activity may be expected on the upland areas within the watershed between the Cherwell and Great Ouse. In Northamptonshire the oval mortuary enclosure with a barrow is more usual.
- 3.2.18 A number of possible ring ditches have been identified on aerial photographs within the south-western section of the airfield at Chipping Warden (GLB165). These are in a typically prominent location overlooking the headwaters of the Cherwell. Another possible round barrow has been identified at Lower Thorpe (GLBo83) and is a scheduled monument. This possible barrow is well preserved as an extant earthwork and could date to a much later period in time. This mound does, however, occupy a typical valley side location. Two more possible ring-ditches have been identified on the slightly rising ground to the east of Greatworth (GLB213 and 214). Geophysical survey undertaken in the area (GLB144) between the scheduled monument of Edgcote Roman Villa and Trafford Bridge (Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-015 (CWoAA)) has also identified two circular features situated close together. This form and their location on rising ground overlooking the floodplain suggest that these could also be Bronze Age round-barrows.
- 3.2.19 Fieldwalking in several locations within the study area has recovered finds of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age date. These include near Greatworth Hall (GLB213) where a ring ditch may also have been identified as a cropmark (Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-015 (OUoAB)), near Park Spinney, south west of Greatworth, to the north and west of Greatworth, near Dean Barn (GLBo50 and GLBo51), near Costow House (GLBo56) at Thorpe Mandeville (GLBo80), from the environs of the scheduled monument of Edgcote Roman Villa (GLB138/144) and from around Chipping Warden (GLB151). At Park Spinney, south west of Greatworth, the finds from fieldwalking came from an area in which cropmarks have also been identified on aerial photographs. Fieldwalking on the southern end of the ridge to the west of Culworth Grounds (GLB105) retrieved arrowheads and scrapers of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date amongst a collection of other worked flints of less certain date (Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-015 (CHoAB)).
- 3.2.20 These finds suggest that there was moderately widespread activity in the study area during the Neolithic to early Bronze Age periods, mainly associated with the Cherwell Valley or the headwaters of streams within the upland watershed between Thorpe Mandeville and Greatworth.

3.3 Later prehistory (circa 1,500 BC - AD 43)

- 3.3.1 The Middle Bronze Age (circa 1,500 – circa 1,100 BC) through to the Late Iron Age (circa 100 BC – AD 43) is the period during which settlement evidence and the associated evidence for agricultural practices and land division becomes more visible in the archaeological record⁹.

⁹ Darvill, T., (2010), *Prehistoric Britain*, Routledge, London.

- 3.3.2 From the Middle Bronze Age, settlement became more permanent; usually as single farmsteads only large enough to accommodate a single family unit¹⁰. A typical later prehistoric settlement may include buried evidence for at least one roundhouse in the form of a circular gully with postholes and associated features such as an enclosure ditch, ditched fields, paddocks and trackways.
- 3.3.3 Larger scale societal divisions may well have been present but are not clear cut until the introduction of tribal coinages in the late 1st century BC. There is some evidence for a degree of centralisation in the area during the later Bronze Age (circa 1,100 – circa 700 BC) and earlier Iron Age (circa 700 – circa 400 BC) with the establishment of enclosed sites on hill tops throughout the area surrounding the headwaters and upper reaches of the Cherwell.
- 3.3.4 By the Late Iron Age the study area may have lain in a border area between three tribal groupings: the Catevalauni to the south and south-east, Corieltauvi to the north and north-east and the Dobunni to the south-west¹¹.
- 3.3.5 Activity of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date will typically be located on the lighter free draining soils over the permeable limestones where these outcrop on valley sides. It is likely that activity of these periods will not be as well represented in areas where the limestone is overlain by deposits of till.
- 3.3.6 It is probable that the scheduled monument of Arbury Banks (GLB152) near Chipping Warden is a later Bronze Age or Iron Age hill fort placed to overlook and potentially control the headwaters of the River Cherwell. Arbury Banks is unlikely to exist alone in the later prehistoric landscape and it is likely that associated settlement and agricultural systems exist within its hinterland, most likely flanking the headwater streams of the River Cherwell. An area of features visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs lies adjacent to the Arbury enclosure (GLB152) and may be directly associated with it.
- 3.3.7 Another hillfort is recorded at Thenford, just to the south of the study area near Thorpe Mandeville and a third may be represented at Warden Hill just outside of the study area to the east of Chipping Warden¹². To the west of Culworth Grounds, a hill top enclosure is visible to aerial photography (GLB105). This site is discussed in more detail in Section 3.9 in this appendix. Similar hill top enclosures can be identified from aerial photographs to the south-west of Hill Farm, to the east of Drunken Meadow Spinney (GLB149) and on Wardington Hill. These and the enclosures at Culworth are all concentrated around the headwaters of the Cherwell.
- 3.3.8 Monument types commonly found elsewhere in Northamptonshire are linear alignments of pits, possibly forming a land demarcation. These are relatively rare, however, in the watershed between the Ouse and Nene¹³. In the western part of

¹⁰ Kidd, A., (2009), Buckinghamshire Late Bronze Age and Iron Age: Historic Environment Resource Assessment, Buckinghamshire County Council Buckinghamshire County Council; http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/130456/A_ST_Bucks_3_Bucks_Iron_Age_FINAL.pdf; Accessed: 16th September 2013.

¹¹ Cunliffe, B., (2009), *Iron Age Communities in Britain 4th Ed.*, Routledge, London.

¹² Deegan, A. and Foard, G., (2008), *Mapping Ancient Landscapes in Northamptonshire*, English Heritage, Swindon.

¹³ Deegan, A. and Foard, G., (2008).

Northamptonshire many of the later prehistoric settlements are arranged in a linear fashion possibly along trackways or boundaries¹⁴.

- 3.3.9 Much of the evidence for later prehistoric settlement within the study area is in the form of sites identified from cropmarks visible on aerial photographs and recorded by the English Heritage National Mapping Programme. Without investigation on the ground it is usually difficult to attribute a date to these sites beyond a broad late prehistoric to Roman date. Examples of sites of this nature have been identified to the south of Halse Copse (GLBo07), at Park Spinney south west of Greatworth, between Moreton and Banbury Roads (GLBo61), near Magpie Farm (GLBo67), near Happy Lands (GLBo68), near Thorpe Lodge Farm (GLB101), near Hill Farm, at Culworth Grounds (GLB105), near Drunken Meadow Spinney (GLB149), north-east of Calves Close Spinney (GLB155), on Warden Hill, and to the south (GLB202) and north (GLB208) of Three Shires and at Fox Covert (GLB211). At Park Spinney south west of Greatworth, fieldwalking has also recovered finds of middle to late Bronze Age date from the area in which the cropmarks lie.
- 3.3.10 Excavated evidence for later prehistoric settlement and associated field-systems has been recorded during archaeological investigations on the line of the Greatworth to Thorpe Mandeville pipeline near Stuchbury Manor Farm (GLBo39) and to the north of Greatworth Hall (GLBo34). Geophysical survey near Stuchbury Manor Farm (GLBo39) also identified anomalies typical of later prehistoric or Romano-British settlement.
- 3.3.11 Fieldwalking and metal detection at Blackgrounds (GLB144), to the north of the scheduled monument of Edgcote Roman Villa (GLB138) recovered finds that suggest there may be an Iron Age precursor to the villa in this area. This is discussed in more detail in Section 3.9.
- 3.3.12 Fieldwalking surveys have also recovered later prehistoric finds from the area around Greatworth (GLBo28) and from east of Marston Hill Farm (GLBo49). A Bronze Age axe hoard has been recorded from within the area of Chipping Warden Airfield (GLB165) and Iron Age finds including coins have been found from the area around Chipping Warden (GLB151) and at Arbury Banks (GLB152). Reports of undated cinerary urns north-east of Greatworth (GLBo28) could indicate Bronze Age burials in this area although a Roman and/or Saxon date may be more likely.

3.4 Romano-British (AD43 - 410)

- 3.4.1 Settlement of Roman (AD 43 – 410) date is usually more extensive in scale than that of later prehistoric date, with a far greater variety of material culture (pottery, worked bone, metalwork and glass etc). There is also widespread use of stone, brick and tile for building.
- 3.4.2 Generally there appears to be an increase in population and settlement density between the 1st century BC and 1st century AD although there is also some evidence during this period for settlement abandonment and dislocation.

¹⁴ Deegan, A., (2007), Archaeology on the Boulder Clay in Northamptonshire: some results from the Northamptonshire National Mapping Programme Project, *Populating Clay Landscapes*, The History Press, Stroud.

- 3.4.3 Major re-organisation of the countryside occurred throughout the 1st century BC to 2nd century AD. The changes from the second half of the 1st century AD may have been a consequence of the establishment of the Roman road network and the growth of both large towns and more localised market centres. Evidence for this dislocation appears to be represented just to the south of the study area in the excavated evidence from investigations on the A43 road improvements north of Brackley¹⁵. Here settlements occupied during the Iron Age are abandoned or move during the 1st century AD.
- 3.4.4 The line of Welsh Lane (GLB115) that extends from Lower Boddington through Aston-le-Walls, across Trafford Bridge and on towards Brackley is believed to follow the route of a former Roman road (Margary Route 166)¹⁶ and it is likely that settlement of Roman date will be concentrated along it.
- 3.4.5 Compared with the Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire Cotswolds, to the south and west and the Nene Valley to the north and east, villas are comparatively poorly represented in western Northamptonshire. Recent research in west Northamptonshire involving community metal detection and artefact detection surveys, however, suggests that villas are maybe more widespread in this area than previously believed¹⁷.
- 3.4.6 An important Romano-British settlement has been identified at Edgcote (GLB138 and GLB144). This site may represent a Romano-British villa (GLB138) although there is evidence to indicate that a more extensive road side settlement may be present and which may have specialised in iron working. The site lies beside the Welsh Lane (GLB115) which may be a Roman road and evidence from fieldwalking and geophysical survey strongly indicates that it may have developed from an Iron Age settlement. This site is discussed in more detail in section 3.9.
- 3.4.7 Most settlements of Roman date did not develop into villas but were similar in nature to later prehistoric settlement. As with the late prehistoric period, many potentially Roman settlements may have been identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs but cannot be confirmed without field surveys. Examples of sites of this nature have been identified to the south of Halse Copse (GLBo07), at Park Spinney south west of Greatworth, between Banbury and Moreton Roads near Thorpe Mandeville (GLBo61), near Magpie Farm (GLBo67), near Happy Lands (GLBo68), near Thorpe Lodge Farm (GLB101), near Hill Farm, near Calves Close Spinney (GLB155), near Three Shires (GLB202 and GLB208) and near Fox Covert (GLB211). At Park Spinney fieldwalking has also recovered finds of Roman date from the area in which cropmark features are apparent.
- 3.4.8 Excavated evidence for later prehistoric settlement and associated field systems have been recorded during archaeological investigations on the line of the Greatworth to Thorpe Mandeville pipeline near Stuchbury Manor Farm (GLBo39) and to the north of Greatworth Hall (GLBo34). Geophysical survey near Stuchbury Manor Farm (GLBo39) also identified anomalies typical of later prehistoric or Romano-British settlement.

¹⁵ Mudd, A., (2007), Iron Age and Roman Settlement on the Northamptonshire Uplands: Archaeological work on the A43 Towcester to M40 Road Improvement scheme in Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire, *Northamptonshire Archaeology Monograph No. 1*, Northamptonshire Archaeology.

¹⁶ Margary, ID., (1973), *Roman Roads in Britain*, J Baker, London.

¹⁷ Young, S., Pers Comm, (2012), East Midlands Archaeological Research Framework Conference 2012.

- 3.4.9 Fieldwalking has also recovered finds of Roman date from the environs of Greatworth (GLBo28) and from near Marston Hill Farm (GLBo49). In the area to the north-east of Greatworth (GLBo28) there are also records of finds of cinerary urns and although no date for these is given the likelihood is they are Bronze Age, Roman or early medieval.

3.5 Early medieval (AD410 - 1066)

- 3.5.1 The archaeology of the 5th to 7th centuries is of a much reduced character compared to the preceding Roman period. Material culture is drastically reduced as handmade Anglo-Saxon pottery does not survive well in ploughsoils and coinage is only present reliably from circa AD 700 and even then is very rare.
- 3.5.2 What is apparent is that the social, monetary, economic and political organisation of the Roman period broke down to be replaced by a system of smaller tribal entities that came to adopt customs, social organisation, material culture, stylistic forms and language of a new elite derived from Northern Europe and Scandinavia. The period appears to have been unsettled and warlike as these entities strove for power until the principal Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of East Anglia, Mercia and Wessex became established.
- 3.5.3 Much of the evidence for the 5th to 7th centuries comes from cemeteries although place names can also be a very useful indicator of settlement activity of this period. Cemeteries of this period are often sited on prominent points in the landscape and it is not unusual to find them associated with prehistoric barrows. Some Romano-British cemeteries also continue in use into the earlier part of this period, suggesting that even if Romano-British settlement sites were not continuing in use, that settlement was, in some cases, still focussed close to them.
- 3.5.4 Cemeteries of 5th through to 7th century date have been recorded in a number of locations within the study area. At Greatworth a report of the discovery of cinerary urns and a 7th century shield disc in the fields to the north-east of the village (GLBo28) may suggest the presence of an early medieval cemetery.
- 3.5.5 A cemetery comprising both cremations and inhumations with grave goods of 6th to 7th century date was excavated in the 1840s to the west of Moreton Road near Thorpe Mandeville (GLBo56). Artefacts including Scaettas (coins)¹⁸, possibly in association with burials at the scheduled monument of Edgcote Roman Villa (GLB238), suggest another cemetery is located here. A record of a francisca (throwing axe) from Chipping Warden (GLB151) also indicates at least one, if not more, early medieval warrior graves in this locality¹⁹. The well preserved scheduled monument of a mound at Lower Thorpe (GLBo83) could also be an early medieval barrow, as well as, or rather than, a Bronze Age barrow.
- 3.5.6 During the early medieval period there was an abandonment of potentially more marginal soils, such as those found over the Till that masks much of the limestone upland in the study area. Settlement activity of this date is, therefore most likely to be

¹⁸ Ryland, W., Adkins, D. & Serjeantson, RM., (1902), *The Victoria History of the County of Northampton: Vol. 1*, Victoria County History, London.

¹⁹ Journal of the Northampton Museums and Art Gallery. Vol. 6 (1969). Northampton Museum. Northampton.

identified on the lighter soils over the limestones where they are not covered in Till; activity may also be identified within the valley of the River Cherwell.

- 3.5.7 The Romano-British pattern of settlement appears to have completely broken down in the early 5th century although some occupation evidently continued at some towns into the 5th or even 6th century. Outside of this the Romano-British system of market centres and organised estates with agricultural and industrial specialisms aligned on the road system appears to have collapsed. Settlement of 5th to 7th century date tends to be scattered and based on small hamlets/farmsteads usually focussed on a small number of small timber halls with associated sunken featured buildings. These settlements may also be associated with small ditched fields and trackways. The location of the Anglo Saxon cemetery to the west of Moreton Road (GLBo56) near a hill crest and a meeting of roads (GLB229 and GLB230) that were in existence in the medieval period could be evidence that these two roads originated as trackways in the Anglo-Saxon period or earlier. A field boundary (GLB223) that appears to pre-date the ridge and furrow near Lower Thorpe (Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-015 (O35)) may also be an Anglo Saxon or earlier feature. There is some evidence to indicate lighter, easily tilled soils near water sources were favoured and that areas of intractable clay soils were abandoned for occupation, but may have continued in use for timber and wood pasture.
- 3.5.8 From the 7th century onwards the historical record becomes clearer as documentary sources become available. It is also in this period, however, that pagan burial practices with grave goods and the construction of sunken featured buildings cease. This period also sees the widespread introduction of Christianity across the region and associated church foundations many of which remain the locations of existing churches.
- 3.5.9 From the 8th century it is evident that political power was becoming more centralised with the study area lying within the Kingdom of Mercia. This period saw the beginnings of the exertion of chartered rights and the establishment of significant royal and episcopal holdings. The establishment of larger market centres is also apparent. By the 10th century the study area lay close to the border with the Danish controlled area of the Danelaw.
- 3.5.10 Between the 9th and 11th centuries there was a greater nucleation of settlement, generally in the locations of villages, which have remained populated through to the present day. This period also saw the establishment of the open field agricultural system with its characteristic ridge and furrow, which would remain in use throughout the medieval period.
- 3.5.11 These open fields were worked communally with farmers owning and/or renting individual portions/strips within each of the open fields. The study area contains a mixture of "Champion" medieval landscapes of nucleated villages with large open field systems typical of the midland counties such as Greatworth (GLBo29), Chipping Warden (GLB151), Aston-le-Walls (GLB176) and the Boddingtons and a more dispersed pattern of smaller hamlets and farmsteads, especially in the upper reaches of the Cherwell tributaries, such as at Lower Thorpe (GLBo86).

- 3.5.12 Many early medieval settlements have been built over by later and existing settlements. Early medieval settlement is therefore often difficult to detect through the usual means of reconnaissance. Artefacts dating between circa AD 750 – 950 have been recovered from within or close to modern settlements within the area where Northamptonshire meets Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. This suggests that the modern settlement pattern in the study area has its origins between the 8th and 11th centuries.
- 3.5.13 By AD 873 the study area was part of the Anglian Kingdom of Mercia until its collapse during the Danish invasions of the 9th century. Thereafter until circa AD 1016 it lay within a border area between Wessex with its territory expanding from the Thames Valley to the south and south-west as far as the Danelaw to the north and east. The route of Welsh Lane (GLB155) is believed to have been used during this period as a road linking the Anglo-Saxon burhs (defended towns) at Buckingham and Warwick²⁰.
- 3.5.14 Evidence for Danish influence is clearly indicated by the place names of Thorpe Mandeville and Lower Thorpe. The lower ground between Edgcote Hill and the River Cherwell is also called Danesmoor and there is a possibility that this name derives from a battle fought between the Danes and Saxons in this area in the 9th century.

3.6 Medieval (AD 1066 - 1539)

- 3.6.1 The manorial system with its associated agricultural system based on the communal working of associated open fields had become established before the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and remained the norm throughout the medieval period. The centuries following the Conquest, however, also witnessed fundamental changes in local government, commerce, technology and the related organisation of society. During this period there was also at first a rapid growth in population through the 11th to 13th centuries followed by a grievous check in population due to a succession of crop failures causing poor harvests and famine. These were closely followed by the outbreak of the Great Plague in 1347, which may have killed approximately a third of the population. Further outbreaks of plague occurred throughout the later 14th and 15th centuries.
- 3.6.2 The Norman Conquest saw the establishment of an entirely new royal dynasty and the apportionment of the manors of England to William the Conqueror's military elite and their families. Significant holdings also continued to be held by the church with further additions being bequeathed to both church and the new monasteries by kings, aristocracy and emerging mercantile gentry throughout the period. By the 15th century the church and monasteries were the landlords of a very significant proportion of England and were major employers and entrepreneurs.
- 3.6.3 The Norman Conquest saw the imposition of the feudal system. Labour was cheap and tied to the land and aristocratic and ecclesiastical landlords had significant power to manage and organise their holdings. Both the Crown and major landholders developed vast areas of countryside as hunting preserves for the rearing of deer and

²⁰ Battlefields Trust, (2012), Description of the Edgcote Battlefield, Battlefields Trust; <http://www.battlefieldstrust.com/resource-centre/warsoftheroses/battleview.asp?BattleFieldId=13>; Accessed: 16 September 2013.

other game. These forests, including Whittlewood, may have extended into the northern part of the study area. These forests were not necessarily wooded but were called forest as they were administered under the regulations of the Forest Statutes. From the late 12th century, Crown and major magnates also increasingly sought to improve their incomes through the establishment of market centres, often in conjunction with the establishment of new planned settlements or re-organisation of existing ones. This period also saw significant investment in new technologies such as improved water mills and the introduction of wind mills to Britain.

- 3.6.4 The rising population throughout the 12th and 13th centuries may have resulted in the uptake of more marginal land helped by the introduction of the mould board plough and later the replacement of ox teams by horses to pull them. This colonisation of more marginal clays and clearance (assarting) of woodland and waste on the periphery of established settlements can also be identified.

- 3.6.5 The famines and plagues of the 14th century seem to have brought an end to the uptake of more marginal land and may also in great part have been responsible for the abandonment of many sites both in more marginal areas and elsewhere. The dramatic decline in population was not the only reason for the abandonment and shrinkage of rural settlement. Changes in agricultural practices and associated shifts in the rural economy to improve rents from land and lordly incomes from farming had major implications for the fabric of rural society and were also significant reasons for the abandonment of settlements. This shift witnessed the widespread abandonment of the traditional communal farming system and introduction of less labour intensive methods, including a dramatic increase in the amount of land that was given over to pasture for sheep, to provide wool that had become one of England's principal and most profitable exports and to a lesser extent cattle to feed the burgeoning urban populations. This shift also witnessed the decline of the feudal system with a peasantry generally tied to a particular manor and the establishment of a more mobile rural workforce. This period also saw the rise of the farming yeomanry that by the 15th century could be seen to be becoming a newly gentrified class.

- 3.6.6 By time of the Norman Conquest the present settlement pattern had probably developed focussed on the settlements at Greatworth (GLBo29), Sulgrave (GLBo65), Thorpe Mandeville (GLBo80), Culworth (GLB118), Edgcote (GLB141/142), Chipping Warden (GLB151), Aston-le-Walls (GLB176) and Lower Boddington (GLB198). The medieval churches at these settlements demonstrate their continued development through the 12th to 15th centuries. Medieval activity is also represented by the scheduled monuments of the medieval ringworks of Castle Hill at Sulgrave (GLBo65) and Castle Ringwork at Culworth (GLB118).

- 3.6.7 Evidence for medieval activity could include buried evidence for low earthworks or buried remains including evidence for house platforms, hollow-ways, trackways and ditched and/or banked field boundaries. Remains of former open field systems associated with nearby settlement can also survive as areas of ridge and furrow and the intervening headlands.

- 3.6.8 Medieval village and/or manorial earthworks are present near Costow House (GLBo72), at Lower Thorpe (GLBo86), at Thorpe Mandeville (GLBo80), at Edgcote

(GLB142), at Trafford (GLB147), south of Chipping Warden (GLB143), at Appletree Farm (GLB172) and at Aston-le-Walls (GLB176). An abandoned medieval settlement is also present just outside of the study area at Halse and Stuchbury. Medieval enclosures survive as earthworks to the south of Lower Boddington (GLB201).

- 3.6.9 Within what is predominantly a post-medieval framework aspects of the pre-existing medieval landscape survive principally as areas of ridge and furrow and associated headlands indicating areas in which an open field system existed during the medieval period. Most of these can be associated with either the existing historic settlements at Greatworth (GLB029), Lower Thorpe (GLB086), Thorpe Mandeville (GLB080) and Aston-le-Walls (GLB176) or settlements that have since been deserted such as at Trafford (GLB147), Edgcote (GLB142) and Appletree Farm (GLB172).
- 3.6.10 Particularly good examples of medieval landscapes remain legible at:
- Thorpe Mandeville and Lower Thorpe landscape (GLB224);
 - Trafford Bridge to Trafford House landscape component (GLB226); and
 - Lower Boddington landscape (GLB228).
- 3.6.11 These are discussed in more detail in the Section 6.
- 3.6.12 Another aspect of the medieval countryside was the establishment of royal and private forests and parks for hunting. Parts of the study area near Greatworth may have also have fallen within the south-western edge of Whittlewood Forest. The layout of modern field boundaries and trackways between Radstone and Halse Grange on the boundary between the Newton Purcell to Brackley area (CFA14) and CFA15, could indicate that a former park of medieval date lies in this area. This could be associated with the historic environment record (HER) of a park at Greatworth (GLB003) although the northern and western extent cannot be plotted from modern mapping due to disruption by construction of the Banbury branch of the Great Central Railway (GLB024).
- 3.6.13 At Lower Thorpe (GLB085) a series of ponds extend to the east of Lower Thorpe Farmhouse. Although these were probably enlarged during the post-medieval period it is possible that they originated during the medieval period as fishponds and/or ponds for a mill at Lower Thorpe. These ponds extend along the stream to the south-east to the possible medieval village earthworks near Costow House and beyond to Thorpe Mandeville (GLB078).
- 3.6.14 A medieval mill probably also existed at Culworth Mill adjacent to Trafford Bridge (GLB131) and it is possible that the scheduled monument of a mound at Lower Thorpe (GLB083) may have been (or was also used as) a platform for a windmill.
- 3.6.15 A significant military action is recorded to have occurred in the parish of Edgcote in 1469 during the Wars of the Roses (AD 1455 – AD 1487) (GLB108).
- 3.6.16 The battlefield is discussed more fully in Section 6 of this appendix but from a purely archaeological perspective may contain remains such as arrowheads, discarded equipment and weaponry (mainly metal artefacts). It is not known if gunpowder

weaponry was used at the battle but the battle post-dates the first recorded use of such weaponry in Britain at the second battle of St Albans in 1461. It is therefore possible that evidence for use of gunpowder weaponry may be present in the form of shot²¹.

- 3.6.17 Other archaeological evidence for the battle could be the burial pits where the slain might have been buried. It is also possible that other skeletal material (both human and potentially equine) may be present where corpses were not moved into burial pits. The location of arrowheads, equipment and skeletal material will give a strong indication as to where the opposing forces were deployed, where the battle was principally fought and any path of rout after the Yorkist army broke.

3.7 Post-medieval (AD 1539 - 1900)

- 3.7.1 It is likely that the pattern of settlement established in the medieval period forms the basis for the pattern that continued through the post-medieval period (AD 1540 – AD 1900) to the present day. The character of settlement evidence in the post-medieval period is one in which surviving built structures are more prevalent, although buried evidence similar to that of medieval date but typically with a greater quantity and variety of artefactual evidence will still be present.
- 3.7.2 The post-medieval period also witnessed the widespread abandonment of the medieval agricultural organisation based on open fields with its ridge and furrow strips divided by headlands. This was replaced by enclosed fields, both for arable production and especially to provide enclosed pasture. The enclosure of the landscape commenced in the later medieval period and accelerated after the final dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII between 1536 and 1539, which brought more land into private ownership. In the study area the enclosure was undertaken both privately before the 19th century (much of it by the early 18th century as in the case of Greatworth (which was privately enclosed by agreement in 1634 (GLB220)) and by Parliamentary Act between 1760 and 1780²².
- 3.7.3 The Historic Landscape Character within the study area is predominantly one formed by private and parliamentary enclosure during the post-medieval period. Much of the enclosure was private and had occurred before 1800 but this was later modified by Parliamentary Act in the later 18th to early 19th centuries²³.
- 3.7.4 Between Halse Copse and Lower Thorpe the fieldscape is mainly one created by subdivision of earlier post-medieval enclosures. This subdivision was predominantly undertaken privately²⁴. Between Lower Thorpe and Lower Boddington the fieldscape is mainly formed by parliamentary enclosure undertaken between 1760 and 1780. This has been partially fragmented by later amalgamation of some fields²⁵.

²¹ Simon Marsh (Battlefields Trust) Pers Comm.,(2012), Meeting July 2012.

²² Northamptonshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment (2007), Northamptonshire Observatory; <http://www.northamptonshireobservatory.org.uk/publications/document.asp?documentid=1022>; Accessed: 16th September 2013.

²³ Northamptonshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment, (2007).

²⁴ Northamptonshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment, (2007).

²⁵ Northamptonshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment, (2007).

- 3.7.5 Many of the farmhouses and associated agricultural buildings in the area were built between the 17th and 19th centuries but it is generally buildings within the settlements of Greatworth (GLBo29), Thorpe Mandeville (GLBo80), Lower Thorpe (GLBo86), Culworth (GLB118), Sulgrave (GLBo65), Edgcote (GLB141), Chipping Warden (GLB151), Aston-le-Walls (GLB176), Lower Boddington (GLB198) and Upper Boddington (GLB207) that comprise the majority of this period's built heritage. Most of the farmsteads that now exist outside of these village centres are probably farms dating to the enclosures of the 18th and early 19th centuries.
- 3.7.6 A number of the post-medieval houses in the area are associated with the burgeoning gentrified class that became established after the dissolution of the monasteries. These houses are often associated with designed landscapes. Examples include the Manor and Rectory in Thorpe Mandeville (GLBo80), Edgcote (GLB141), Trafford House (GLB148) and the Manor House at Chipping Warden (GLB151).
- 3.7.7 At Thorpe Mandeville (GLBo80) and Lower Thorpe (GLBo86) an extensive system of ponds (GLBo85 and 078) extend between the two settlements and Costow House to their south and east. These ponds are discussed in more detail in section 3.9.
- 3.7.8 Lower Thorpe Farmhouse is built in the local ironstone vernacular and is Grade II listed. The listing for this building dates it to the early 18th century. A more formal arrangement of gardens and designed landscape extends on the east side of Thorpe Mandeville, focussed on the Rectory and the Manor House.
- 3.7.9 The orientation of the house and parkland at Edgcote (GLB141) during the Tudor period was principally on a north to south axis. In the 1740s the new house and parkland were placed on a west to east alignment. The pleasure grounds extended east from the house along the valley of the Cherwell with a number of existing mill and fishponds in the valley being amalgamated in the 1790s to form a single ornamental lake. The view can probably best be appreciated from the salon. A visitor to the house in 1799 described this view as "looking down to a piece of water which, though made, is a very considerable feature in the place from the rooms in the back front, the ground falling well to it, and the water being seen in an agreeable manner through and under the trees"²⁶. The pool is now flanked by mature woodland which extends almost to Trafford Bridge as Oisierbed Spinney.
- 3.7.10 The remains of a designed landscape may also survive in association with Trafford House (GLB147 and 148) on the River Cherwell approximately 3km to the east of Edgcote. At Chipping Warden (GLB151) an area of parkland extends south from the manor and rectory down to the Cherwell.
- 3.7.11 There has been very little change in the field boundaries within the study area since the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping of the 1880s and there is good survival of historically important hedgerows, 29 of which lie within the land required for construction of the Proposed Scheme.

²⁶ Strutt, S., (2008), *Edgcote: a brief history*, p.14 David Allen.

- 3.7.12 The headwaters of the Cherwell was used as a catchment for water to be fed into the Oxford Canal (GLBo83), designed in the 1760s by James Brindley; a feeder (GLB196) for the canal drains from the higher ground near Lower Boddington westwards to the canal at its summit above the Claydon flight of locks.
- 3.7.13 In the mid-19th to early 20th century three railway lines were built within the study area. These comprise the Northampton and Banbury Junction Railway passing Greatworth, (GLBo24), which was opened in 1872, a branch of the Great Central Railway (GLBo94) connecting to Banbury passing to the north of Thorpe Mandeville which was opened in 1909 and the East and West Junction Railway (GLB180) passing Aston-le-Walls which was opened in 1873. All three were constructed in order to exploit the local building stone and ironstone resources of the region. All three were closed in the 1950s/60s.

3.8 Twentieth century/modern (AD 1900 - present)

- 3.8.1 In 1939 a wireless receiving and transmitting station was established by the Royal Air Force (RAF) at Greatworth Park (GLBo36). Throughout World War II this handled signals traffic for the code breaking establishment at Bletchley Park. The transmitter station then remained in use throughout the Cold War before closing in 1992.
- 3.8.2 During World War II the airfield at Chipping Warden (GLB162) was established on the higher ground overlooking two headwaters of the River Cherwell. Within the airfield and its close vicinity there is likely to be remains such as hardstandings, hangars, blast pens, airfield defences, airfield infrastructure, air raid shelters and below ground stores/magazines. Abandoned infrastructure related to the airfield is also apparent on LiDAR imaging at Calves Close Spinney (GLB154).

3.9 Selected archaeological sites within and immediately adjacent to the land required to construct the Proposed Scheme

System of ponds between Costow House and Lower Thorpe (GLBo78 and GLBo85)

- 3.9.1 This extensive system of ponds (GLBo85 and 078) extend between Lower Thorpe (GLBo86) and Costow House to their south and east. These may have a medieval origin but appear to have been extended during the post-medieval period, both as fishponds and potentially as ponds for the breeding of waterfowl. The ponds ascending the valley to the east of Lower Thorpe Farmhouse (GLBo85) now comprise a series of five relatively large ponds, of which the two closest to the house appear to be 19th century at the earliest. The three furthestmost ponds, however, date to before the mid-18th century. A canalised leat set in an embankment feeds from these three ponds towards the house. These ponds (and their dams) and their associated leat seem to be larger and more engineered than would be required for wildfowl or possibly even fish. They are certainly larger than is required to power the small dairy wheel at Lower Thorpe Farmhouse (within asset grouping GLBo86).
- 3.9.2 During the site visit a large stone was noticed that appeared to be a large piece of what could have been a hammer stone. It is therefore possible that the ponds served

to power a large mill or more likely other industry (possibly even a forge/bloomery) within the steep valley bottom at Lower Thorpe and that the ponds are a series of pond bays. It is likely that any such industry predates Lower Thorpe Farmhouse which may date to the 17th century. Geophysical survey of the area in which the ponds lie suggest that the local watercourse has been altered and that there is a concentration of possible brick and ferrous material at the foot of the large dam holding back the largest pond (Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-015-(CHoAC)).

- 3.9.3 The setting of these features is closely confined by the valley sides but provides an extended setting for Lower Thorpe Farmhouse (within asset grouping GLBo86) and also helps to link elements of the historic landscape together via the chain of ponds extending up the tributary valley towards Thorpe Mandeville and Costow (GLBo85 and GLBo78). The deeds of Lower Thorpe Farmhouse give the owner there rights to manage the sluices for all of the ponds along this entire valley system
- 3.9.4 The ponds are an integral element of the Thorpe Mandeville and Lower Thorpe landscape (GLB224) and contribute to the value of this well as to the settlement at Lower Thorpe (GLBo86).
- 3.9.5 Both in landscape terms and terms of archaeological potential these ponds and any associated remains could have particularly important qualities especially if they are pond bays associated with early post-medieval iron-working.

Cropmarks to the west of Culworth Grounds (GLB105)

- 3.9.6 To the west of Culworth Grounds a hill top enclosure is visible to aerial photography (GLB105). Here a curvilinear enclosure conforms to the contours of the top of the hill and may be associated with other cropmark features extending for at least a kilometre in a north-east direction along the same ridge top. At circa 0.6 hectares, this enclosure is too small to be a hillfort. The enclosure stands very close to the local springline. Geophysical surveys of the southern end of the ridge have provided a strong response clearly showing the enclosure with associated features, including secondary enclosures and boundaries lying in close proximity. Fieldwalking of the same area (Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-015 (CHoAB)) has recovered pottery and flints of likely Bronze Age date with a concentration of tools within the main enclosure and waste/debitage from one of the secondary enclosures to the north. The complexity of the features suggests the site was occupied over a prolonged period of time. The flintwork recovered during fieldwalking suggests that occupation on the site may originate in the Bronze Age.
- 3.9.7 Similar enclosures are common within the headwaters of the Cherwell but there has been little if any archaeological investigation of them meaning that they remain a relative enigma. The value of this asset therefore lies in the evidential potential for buried archaeology that it contains and that could inform on when and how this form of settlement developed in the region.

Edgcote villa (GLB138) and Blackgrounds (GLB144)

- 3.9.8 A Romano-British settlement of some importance has been identified at Edgcote on the northern valley side of the headwaters of the River Cherwell. This site is a scheduled monument (GLB138). The area was scheduled on the basis of records of

investigations undertaken during the installation of new drainage between the 1820s and 1840s and other finds made in the immediate vicinity. A single Romano-British building was recorded in the 1840s close to the Cherwell. This appeared to be a detached bath house although the remains of further walls have been recorded to the north of this.

- 3.9.9 Although the site is scheduled as a villa it has also been suggested that the site forms part of a larger roadside settlement or even a small town adjacent to a Roman road on the line of Welsh Lane (GLB144) where it crosses the Cherwell²⁷. It is likely that the Romano-British settlement is a successor to an Iron Age settlement. Fieldwalking and metal detection at Blackgrounds (GLB144) to the north of the scheduled monument recovered finds that suggest there may be an Iron Age precursor to the villa in this area. The finds here also suggest that metalworking was being undertaken nearby, although the date(s) at which this was occurring could not be ascertained. Geophysical survey (Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-015 (CWoAA)) undertaken between the scheduled monument of Edgcote villa and the crossing of the Cherwell at Trafford Bridge identified a number of enclosures (some containing round-houses) and possible trackways extending down slope. This is likely to be an Iron Age precursor to the Romano-British settlement at Edgcote/Blackgrounds and its existence may lend weight to the possibility of there being a prehistoric river crossing at or near Trafford Bridge
- 3.9.10 Finds from Edgcote include pottery types spanning the entire Roman period²⁸. A large number of Roman coins have also been recovered from the site and surrounding area, Late Roman issues being the most numerous²⁹. A number of burials, both inhumations and bones within an urn, are also recorded as having been found between 1826 and 1849³⁰.
- 3.9.11 Evidence associated with the villa at Edgcote extends outside the scheduled area and includes finds of Romano-British pottery made from the area around Blackgrounds Farm (GLB144) and the record of a stone lined well, which may be Roman in date³¹.
- 3.9.12 Further evidence is likely to be present outside of the scheduled area and could include the foundations of ancillary/agricultural buildings, evidence for Iron Age settlement from which the Roman settlement developed, evidence for any associated field/paddock systems with trackways and further evidence for industry (such as quarrying or iron smelting) that may have formed part of the settlement's economic basis. The place name of Blackgrounds is relatively typical for a farm lying over a Roman site. The black soil giving the farm its name may be derived from Roman agricultural and/or industrial activity.
- 3.9.13 The scheduled monument of Edgcote villa and the clearly associated archaeology that extends around it at Blackgrounds and towards Trafford Bridge has particularly

²⁷ Brachi, M., (1959), *Cake and Cockhorse: The magazine of the Banbury Historical Society Vol. 1*, Banbury Historical Society, Banbury

²⁸ Brachi, M., (1959).

²⁹ Ryland, W., Adkins, D. and Serjeantson, RM., (1902), *The Victoria History of the County of Northampton: Vol. 1*, Victoria County History, London).

³⁰ Ryland, W., Adkins, D. & Serjeantson, RM., (1902).

³¹ English Heritage Listing.

important evidential qualities with regard to the information they contain. This evidential quality will be able to make a valuable contribution to understanding the development of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement in the headwaters of the Cherwell. The non-scheduled buried archaeological remains around Blackgrounds (GLB144) contribute to the value of the scheduled buried archaeological remains of Edgcote villa (GLB138) by providing the wider archaeological context in which the scheduled remains lie.

4 Built heritage

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section provides baseline information relating to built heritage assets within the land required permanently or temporarily for construction of the Proposed Scheme, 500m study area and wider ZTV. A broad overview of the character and form of the settlement pattern within the study area can be found in Section 6 of this appendix. This section provides the following information:

- descriptions of all built heritage assets or asset groupings wholly or partially within the land required for construction of the Proposed Scheme. This includes descriptions of settlements where relevant;
- descriptions of all built heritage assets or asset groupings wholly or partially within 500m of the edge of the land required for construction of the Proposed Scheme. This includes descriptions of settlements where relevant; and
- descriptions of selected designated assets within the ZTV.

4.1.2 Further information on all these assets, plus those other designated assets which lie within the ZTV but are not described in Section 4.4 of this appendix, can be found in the Gazetteer in Appendix CH-002-015. The assets are mapped on maps CH-01-047b to CH-01-053 and CH-02-025 to CH-02-027 (Volume 5. Cultural Heritage Map Book).

4.2 Built heritage assets within the land required for construction of the Proposed Scheme

4.2.1 The following built heritage assets or asset groupings, both designated and non-designated, lie wholly or partially within the land required for construction of the Proposed Scheme. The assets are described from south to north.

Greatworth Park (GLBo36)

4.2.2 One of the buildings here was built to house a RAF wireless intercept/transmitting station dating to World War II. This continued to be used throughout the Cold War until 1992. One 1940s building and the foundations of wireless masts survive within the site. The site can be linked to the code breaking centre at Bletchley Park as one of its principal intercept stations. This contributes to the value of the asset.

Lower Thorpe (GLBo86)

4.2.3 Lower Thorpe is a small grouping of farmsteads lying in a tributary valley of the Cherwell to the north of Thorpe Mandeville. The hamlet lies within the limestone upland of South Northamptonshire.

4.2.4 Lower Thorpe is designated as a conservation area by South Northamptonshire District Council and contains one Grade II listed building, Lower Thorpe Farmhouse and associated attached ranges and outbuildings. Lower Thorpe Farmhouse with its associated grounds and historic landscape features (GLB224) is attributed a moderate value as heritage asset. Some 200m to the east of Lower Thorpe Farmhouse lies a

possible Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age bowl barrow (GLBo83) which is a scheduled monument and can therefore be attributed a high value as a heritage asset.

- 4.2.5 The oldest surviving building at Lower Thorpe is the Grade II listed Lower Thorpe Farmhouse which also has a number of subsidiary outbuildings within its curtilage and is associated with an extensive area of ponds to its east. This system of ponds may be part of a water management system for a mill at Lower Thorpe Farm or could be a system of fish ponds, sheep washes or ponds for water fowl. On the 1884 OS map these are labelled as fish ponds but on the 1806 Estate map are associated with paddocks and meadows. These are discussed in more detail in Section 3.8.
- 4.2.6 The Lower Thorpe Farmhouse list description puts the building's date as early 18th century but field visits suggest that parts of the house can be dated to the 17th century. It is likely that the house began as a simple two unit plan that was extended in the later 17th or early 18th century with the addition of a parlour. Later in the 18th century a dairy and brewhouse/kitchen were added as an east range. All are predominantly built in the local limestone and ironstone vernacular.
- 4.2.7 A larger dairy and overwintering barn was added circa 1800 to the east of the main house. This building contains an overshot water wheel of early 19th century date³². It is uncertain what this water wheel powered, but it may be associated with dairying (i.e. feed bailers, churn turners etc.). The associated ponds to the east of the farmhouse existed before 1806 and it is possible that a grain mill or some other form of industry was present on the site before construction of the dairy(s) as a land parcel known as Mill Holme is marked on the 1806 map to the east of the farmhouse; Holme is possibly derived from the Scandinavian for island or reclaimed marsh, suggesting there may be a former mill site located between two leats, or that the wet ground was associated with a mill.
- 4.2.8 Further ranges were added to the complex between 1806 and 1884 with a new west range built to the rear of the house and small outbuildings to the north of this being depicted on the 1st Edition OS mapping of 1884. By this date another farm complex had been built on the opposite side of the road to Lower Thorpe Farmhouse and estate houses built on Culworth Road between Lower Thorpe and Thorpe Mandeville to its north.
- 4.2.9 Lower Thorpe Farmhouse has four chimney stacks three of which are constructed of blue engineering bricks of likely late 19th to early 20th century date. These may be late insertions and suggest that the farmhouse may have been converted to a terrace of four cottages at this date. Changes in the nature of the stonework visible in the south elevation of the house also suggest that the eastern and western ends of the farmhouse belong to different phases than the central section.
- 4.2.10 An important aspect of Lower Thorpe's value will lie in the buried archaeology around and under Lower Thorpe Farmhouse that will document the development of the settlement from the early medieval period onwards and possibly inform on any Scandinavian influence in its origins. The archaeological record may also inform on the

³² Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record.

development of a possible mill at Lower Thorpe and the possible association of this with the series of ponds on the valley side to the east of the farmhouse. The setting of Lower Thorpe farmhouse within a relatively steep sided valley and in association with the ponds to its east is also an important factor in attributing it moderate significance.

- 4.2.11 The landscape in which Lower Thorpe lies retains substantial aspects of a medieval landscape, such as the ridge and furrow (GLBo81, GLBo82, GLBo84 and GLB221) that is still clearly visible in the surrounding fields and possibly elements of the water management system that descends the hillside to the east of Lower Thorpe Farmhouse and towards Costow (GLBo78 and GLBo85). The farmhouse sits at a focal point in this landscape (GLB224) and helps to tie its constituent elements together. This contributes to its value. Neither the farmhouse nor the associated ponds and leats to its east can be publically accessed, but taken together they form an interesting historic ensemble that has likely developed over a number of centuries; certainly since the 1800s and possibly from very much earlier.
- 4.2.12 The location is isolated and the narrow road through Lower Thorpe and linking Thorpe Mandeville with Culworth is little used. Lower Thorpe Farmhouse and its outbuildings are no longer an agricultural concern but their former use can be easily discerned and understood from the road and the surrounding landscape. This contributes to its value.

Trafford Bridge (GLB132)

- 4.2.13 Trafford Bridge is a Grade II listed bridge over the River Cherwell at Edgcote. The existing bridge is 18th century in date and comprises two arched spans constructed from local ironstone. The engineering and architecture of the bridge contribute to its historical value as does its importance to sustaining the historical legibility of the landscapes at Edgcote (GLB134) and Trafford (GLB226) as an 18th century crossing over the Cherwell.
- 4.2.14 Trafford Bridge carries the Welsh Road over the Cherwell between Edgcote and Culworth. It is believed that the Welsh Road follows a routeway that had been established by the Roman period³³ and continued to be used in the early medieval period as a routeway linking the Saxon burhs of Buckingham and Warwick³⁴. During the medieval period the Welsh Road was firmly established as a drovers route from Wales to London and continued to be used as such until the construction of railways in the 19th century. It is therefore likely that a crossing of the Cherwell has existed in the locality of Trafford Bridge since at least the Roman period and very possibly earlier.
- 4.2.15 It is also possible that the river crossing at Trafford Bridge falls within the area fought over during the Battle of Edgcote in 1469. This battle is described in Section 6.4 of this report. Trafford Bridge lies on the Battlefields Heritage Trail that links the battlefields of Edgehill, Cropredy Bridge and Edgcote. This association and its use for an annual commemoration of the battle contributes to its value.

³³ Margary, I., (1973).

³⁴ Battlefields Trust, (2012).

- 4.2.16 The bridge is an 18th century structure and lies within an isolated and quiet valley location. To the south of the bridge the Welsh Lane turns sharply to the east towards Culworth (GLB118) meeting a local road from Edgcote (GLB141) which joins it at the southern edge of the bridge. Views south from the bridge are blocked by a stand of mature woodland. Views are also constrained to the south west and south east by the hedges bordering the Welsh Lane (GLB115) and the road to Edgcote (GLB141). There are open views towards the parkland at Edgcote (GLB134) to the north-west, towards Bush Hill to the north and towards Trafford House (GLB148) to the east.
- 4.2.17 The setting in which the bridge lies also makes a strong positive contribution to its value. The bridge lies in an isolated and peaceful rural location with meadowland extending to its east and the farmland and parkland associated with Edgcote House to its northwest.
- 4.2.18 This asset has particularly important qualities with regard to historic association and landscape legibility and serves as a focal link between the landscape components of Edgcote Battlefield (GLB108), Edgcote Parkland (GLB134) and the landscape between Trafford Bridge and Trafford House (GLB226). All of these landscape components contribute to the value of the bridge and the bridge also contributes as an element to the value of each of these components.

Farm on Culworth Road (GLB150)

- 4.2.19 A group of farm buildings are shown in this location on 1st Edition OS map of 1884. This asset is of local importance as an example of a post enclosure farmstead and its setting is defined by its association with the agricultural landscape in which it lies, and which has developed alongside it.

Structures in Calves Close Spinney (GLB154)

- 4.2.20 These are the remains of buildings and other structures of likely World War II date and associated with the airfield at Chipping Warden.
- 4.2.21 These are of local importance as evidence of the satellite activities associated with the operation of the World War II airfield at Chipping Warden (GLB162). Their value lies in this association and what they may indicate about the peripheral activities at the airfield during World War II.

Stone House (GLB159)

- 4.2.22 This building is shown on the 1st Edition OS map of 1884. This asset is of local importance as an example of a post-medieval house in the local vernacular set within an agricultural landscape. The house lies beside the A361 Banbury to Daventry Road and sits within a mainly hedged enclosure.

4.3 Built heritage assets within 500m of the land required for construction of the Proposed Scheme

Halse Copse Farm (GLB011)

- 4.3.1 The buildings at this farmstead are shown on the 1st Edition OS map of 1883. This asset can be considered to be of local importance. The immediate setting comprises

modern farm buildings around the buildings shown on 1st Edition OS map. This is an example of a post-medieval farmstead.

- 4.3.2 The asset is considered to be of some aesthetic, architectural and historic interest as an example of a post-medieval farmstead. The location within an isolated agricultural landscape which has developed alongside the farmstead contributes to this as will any archaeological remains testifying to the farmstead's development.

Buildings at Greatworth Fields (GLBo14)

- 4.3.3 Buildings are shown at this location are indicated on the 1st Edition OS map of 1883. This asset can be considered to be of local importance as examples of post-medieval agricultural buildings.
- 4.3.4 The asset is considered to be of some aesthetic, architectural and historic interest as examples of post-medieval agricultural buildings. The location within an isolated agricultural landscape which has developed alongside of the buildings contributes to this value.

Bungalow Farm (GLBo20)

- 4.3.5 Buildings are marked in this location on the 1st Edition OS map of 1883. This asset has no discernible historic, evidential, aesthetic or communal interest.

Greatworth Hall (GLBo22)

- 4.3.6 Greatworth Hall is a Grade II listed farmhouse dating to the early 18th century but enlarged in the early 19th century. The farmhouse is built in the local limestone.
- 4.3.7 Greatworth Hall was built as a large farm/estate house but is now the focus for a business park but remains a working farming concern. Its setting remains the agricultural landscape in which it lies. The former line of a branch of the Great Central Railway (GCR) lies immediately to the north of the house.
- 4.3.8 Greatworth Hall is a good example of a large 18th century farmhouse built in the local vernacular and its continued link to the agricultural landscape in which it sits contributes to its value.
- 4.3.9 The landscape in which this asset grouping lies is principally a construct of post-medieval enclosure (principally pre-parliamentary enclosure) but with some areas of ridge and furrow clearly visible immediately to its west (GLB217). Greatworth Hall can also be associated with the system of 17th century enclosures around Greatworth (GLB220) and has visual links to the village of Greatworth. Greatworth Hall now forms the focus of a small business park but its agricultural legacy can be easily understood as the house remains the focus for a working farm.
- 4.3.10 Greatworth Hall lies immediately adjacent to the land required to construct the Proposed Scheme.

Magpie Farm (GLBo63)

- 4.3.11 Site of a former Drovers' Inn which is now part of farmstead with buildings that appear on the 1st edition OS map of 1883. This asset can be considered to be of local

importance as an example of a building in the local vernacular that has a history of changing use.

- 4.3.12 The immediate setting comprises a group of farm buildings shown on the 1st Edition Edition OS map.
- 4.3.13 This isolated location on a road junction and its former use as an inn make the farmhouse a good example of the changing use of buildings within an agricultural landscape.
- 4.3.14 The asset is considered to be of some aesthetic, architectural and historic interest as an example of a post-medieval building.
- 4.3.15 The principal value of this asset lies in the historical and architectural interest inherent in the built fabric, appearance and character of the farmhouse and its association with the other buildings that comprise the farmstead also contributes to its significance. The location within an agricultural landscape contributes to this as does its historical association with a drovers' way (GLB229 - 231) and its former status as a drovers' inn.

Farm to the south of Costow House (GLBo73)

- 4.3.16 Farm buildings are shown here on the 1st Edition OS map of 1884. As the remains of a medieval village with nearby cropmarks that may indicate even earlier activity this site has an established time depth that can be understood. The value of this asset lies in the evidential interest inherent in the buried archaeology which it contains.
- 4.3.17 The relationship of Costow House with the agricultural landscape in which it lies and which has developed alongside it and after its desertion contributes to the value of the asset as does its association with the well preserved Thorpe Mandeville and Lower Thorpe landscape (GLB224) to which it can be associated.

Thorpe Mandeville (GLBo80)

- 4.3.18 Thorpe Mandeville is a hamlet lying on slightly higher ground within the undulating limestone upland of South Northamptonshire. The ground falls away to the north into a tributary valley of the Cherwell and the farmsteads at Lower Thorpe.
- 4.3.19 Thorpe Mandeville is being considered as a conservation³⁵ area by South Northamptonshire District Council and contains one Grade I listed building (The Church of St John the Baptist) with three Grade II listed groupings of tombstones, the Grade II* Manor House with attached Grade II listed stables and gate piers and a Grade II listed public house. The historic settlement at Lower Thorpe with its coherent kernel of listed and non-designated buildings in the local vernacular at its core can be attributed a moderate value as a heritage asset. The principal historic focus of the settlement lies to its north around the Church of St John the Baptist and the Manor House.
- 4.3.20 The area lies on the border of the Danelaw and a settlement at Lower Thorpe existed before the Norman Conquest as it is recorded in the Domesday Survey. In Domesday,

³⁵ South Northamptonshire District Council, (2013), *Thorpe Mandeville Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (Draft for consultation)*.

Thorpe Mandeville is recorded as having been held by Osmund the Dane in AD 1066. Both this ownership and the Thorpe element to the place-name suggest that the medieval settlement may have developed from one established by Scandinavians within the Danelaw. It is interesting to note that the name Thorpe generally relates to a satellite of a larger settlement, possibly established in a time of increasing population pressure.

- 4.3.21 The Grade I Church of St John the Baptist is predominantly of 14th century date although a church is believed to have occupied the site in the 11th century. The earthworks of a former medieval manorial site are clearly visible to the south of the church and further village earthworks are present in Rectory Plantation as well as to the north and west of the church. Ridge and furrow is also still visible in the surrounding fields especially to the north and north-east. A series of ponds extending along the valley to the east of Thorpe Mandeville towards Lower Thorpe may also have their origins as medieval manorial fishponds associated with the medieval manor.
- 4.3.22 The Manor House is a country house of early 18th century date but much altered in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The house has a range of associated outbuildings extending to its north including a Grade II listed stable block and is set within a series of gardens and an area of wider (non-designated) parkland. This parkland extends around the eastern side of Thorpe Mandeville from south of the church extending almost as far as Costow House and curving round to follow the stream to Lower Thorpe. This park may have a medieval origin and its boundary can be traced on the 1884 OS mapping. The parkland contains the ponds within the valley that curves around the east side of the hamlet.
- 4.3.23 The predominantly agricultural landscape in which Thorpe Mandeville lies is a construct of post-medieval parliamentary enclosure although somewhat fragmented by more recent field amalgamations.
- 4.3.24 The value of this asset is in historical and architectural interest of its built heritage and in particular the Grade I listed Church of St John the Baptist, Grade II* listed Manor House and their associated Grade II listed structures including the manorial stables. An important aspect of Thorpe Mandeville's value will lie in the buried archaeology within and around the settlement that will document the development of the settlement from the early medieval period onwards and possibly inform on any Scandinavian influence in its origins.
- 4.3.25 The agricultural landscape in which Thorpe Mandeville lies also contributes to the significance of the settlement and is principally a construct of post-medieval enclosure although some aspects of the pre-existing medieval landscape survive such as the ridge and furrow that is still visible around the village.
- 4.3.26 There are relatively clear views northward across the valley to the north from the churchyard of St John the Baptist but aside from this there is a strong sense of enclosure provided by mature wood hedges and small stands of woodland within the historic core. This is particularly the case to the east of the hamlet.

- 4.3.27 Although views from within the hamlet are mainly constrained by tree hedges and small stands of woodland within the settlement core there are open views northward from the church over the valley to the north.
- 4.3.28 The agricultural landscape in which Thorpe Mandeville lies contributes much to the value of this settlement. The landscape around Thorpe Mandeville and specifically that part that lies between Thorpe Mandeville (GLBo80), Lower Thorpe (GLBo86) and Costow House (GLBo72) has a clear historical legibility that extends from the medieval period through to the present day. This Thorpe Mandeville and Lower Thorpe landscape (GLB224) contains areas of medieval ridge and furrow (GLBo81, GLBo82, GLBo84 and GLB222) and systems of ponds in two valleys (GLBo85 and GLBo78). The focus of this landscape (GLBo79) is the line of Culworth Road which is an old drovers' route linking Banbury with Northampton.
- 4.3.29 Thorpe Mandeville has historic integrity and legibility, both internally and in its links to its wider setting the principal focus of which lies to the north and east and especially from the peaceful churchyard of the Church of St John the Baptist.

Chumscote House (GLBo87)

- 4.3.30 Chumscote House is marked on the 1st Edition OS map of 1884. This is of local importance as a 19th century rural residence.
- 4.3.31 The value of this asset lies in the historical and architectural interest of the house and its association with the other buildings that comprise the dispersed hamlet at Lower Thorpe. The isolated location beside a historic routeway (GLBo79) within an agricultural landscape contributes to the value of this asset.

The Bungalow (GLBo88)

- 4.3.32 The Bungalow is marked on the 1st Edition OS map of 1884. This can be considered to be of local importance as an example of a 19th century rural residence.
- 4.3.33 The value of this asset lies in the historical and architectural interest of the house and its association with the other buildings that comprise the dispersed hamlet at Lower Thorpe. The isolated location beside a historic routeway (GLBo79) within an agricultural landscape contributes to the value of this asset.

Culworth Grounds Farm (GLBo89)

- 4.3.34 Farm buildings are marked here on the 1st Edition OS map of 1884. This can be considered to be of local importance as a post enclosure farmstead.
- 4.3.35 The value of this asset lies in the historical and architectural interest of the house and its association with the other buildings that comprise the farmstead.
- 4.3.36 The isolated location within an agricultural landscape which has developed alongside it contributes to the value of this asset.

Building to the south-west of Culworth (GLB125)

- 4.3.37 This is a probable agricultural building shown in this location on the 1st Edition OS map of 1884. This asset is of limited evidential interest. Its isolated position within the agricultural landscape with which it is associated contributes to its value.

Wadground Barn (GLB126)

- 4.3.38 A building is shown in this location on the 1st Edition OS map of 1884 but has now been replaced by/incorporated into a larger more recent structure. This asset is of limited evidential interest. Its location within a farmstead that is isolated within the agricultural landscape with which it is associated contributes to its value.

Trafford Bridge Farm (GLB132)

- 4.3.39 This is a farm established as part of the Edgcote estate in the mid-18th century and focussed around a Grade II listed farmhouse with associated Grade II laundry, stables and piggery. All are built in the local ironstone vernacular and are a good example of a farmstead laid out during the development of the Chauncy estate during the 18th century.
- 4.3.40 Trafford Bridge Farmhouse and its associated outbuildings is one of the farm complexes built as part of the Edgcote estate; the farmhouse is similar in style to the other Edgcote estate farmhouses at Wardington Gate Farm (GLB140). The front of the farmhouse faces to the west and therefore its key views lie in this direction. To the north of the farmhouse lies an area of mature shelterbelt that effectively screens the farm complex from the parkland associated with Edgcote House to the north. Views to the east from the farmhouse are blocked by the associated outbuildings.
- 4.3.41 The value of this heritage asset lies in the in the historical and architectural interest of the farm buildings and their interrelationship with each other as a planned estate farm of mid-18th century date. Their relationship with Edgcote House (GLB141) and the other estate farms of the same date within the estate also contribute to its value as an example of the Chauncy's agricultural plan. The landscape in which this asset grouping lies is principally a construct of post-medieval enclosure (principally fragmented parliamentary enclosure) and the farm complex constitutes an important facet of this agricultural re-organisation. The farm complex remains an agricultural concern and the farmhouse is currently occupied. Neither the farmhouse, nor outbuildings can be clearly viewed from the public road to the north, nor by public right of way except by a long view from a bridle way across Edgcote Hill to the west. To the north lies the designed landscape (GLB134) associated with Edgcote House and it is possible that the shelterbelt on this side is a deliberate plantation to hide the farm complex from Edgcote House and its associated parkland.
- 4.3.42 The setting in which the complex lies contributes to its value; principally to the west across which the front elevation of the farmhouse looks.

Brock House and Keepers Cottage with kitchen garden, lake and dam at Edgcote (GLB136)

- 4.3.43 This asset comprises the Grade II listed Brock House and Keepers Cottage with a reservoir for the Edgcote parkland and Grade II listed dam to the north and a kitchen garden to the south. These were all established in the middle to late 18th century as part of the Chauncy's reworking of the estate at Edgcote.
- 4.3.44 The kitchen garden had a central canal that was fed by a reservoir to the west. This reservoir served as irrigation for the pleasure grounds and may have served the

ornamental lake. The head of water would probably have been sufficient to allow a fountain as well as to provide domestic water for the house.

- 4.3.45 This asset forms part of the wider Chauncy estate at Edgcote and the association with Edgcote House (GLB141) contributes to its value.
- 4.3.46 This complex is enclosed within shelterbelt and secluded from its surroundings. This may be a deliberate part of the design rationale to distance it visually from Edgcote House. This effectively limits the part of the setting that contributes to its value to within this shelterbelt.

Blackgrounds Farm (GLB145)

- 4.3.47 Farm buildings are shown here on 1st Edition OS map of 1884. This is of local interest as an example of a post enclosure farmstead.
- 4.3.48 Its setting is defined by its association with the agricultural landscape in which it lies and which has developed alongside it. This contributes to its value.

Chipping Warden (GLB151)

- 4.3.49 Chipping Warden is a village lying on slightly higher ground to the north of a headwater of the River Cherwell. The ground slopes downwards from the village to the south-east and south into the Cherwell Valley. The ground rises to the north onto the spur of higher ground on which Chipping Warden Airfield lies.
- 4.3.50 A conservation area has been designated at Chipping Warden, which contains a scheduled monument of a medieval market cross base, the Grade I listed Church of St Peter and St Paul with ten associated Grade II listed tombstones, the Grade II* listed Manor House and 19 other Grade II listed buildings and structures. The scheduled monument of Arbury Banks lies on the western periphery of the village. Based on the coherence of the village core and concentration of listed buildings the village can be attributed a high value as a heritage asset.
- 4.3.51 Archaeological finds have been made in and around the village indicating activity in the general locality from the prehistoric period onwards. These include the remains of the likely Iron Age hill fort and scheduled monument
- 4.3.52 Extensive evidence for the medieval open field system survives in the surrounding fields especially to the south where village earthworks including at least two moated sites and associated fishponds can be discerned.
- 4.3.53 The predominantly agricultural landscape in which Chipping Warden lies is a construct of post-medieval parliamentary enclosure. There has evidently been little change in the nature of the local land division immediately around the settlement since at least 1800 and probably since enclosure. The 1st Edition OS map of 1900 shows Chipping Warden as comprising of a nucleated settlement concentrated around the marketplace and market cross immediately to the north of the church. This focus extends along the four principal routes into the village from Banbury to the south and west, Daventry and Aston-le-Walls to the north, Culworth to the east and Edgcote to the south. This last route has now become little more than a bridleway. Modern

residential development has now in-filled the spaces on these roads and the angles between them.

- 4.3.54 The value of Chipping Warden lies in the historic and architectural interest of its built form. A key part of this is the interplay within the settlement of the individual buildings to form a coherent and historically legible whole.
- 4.3.55 Within the historic core views are very much internalised to the local streetscape which is one dominated by older buildings in the local vernacular. Within this village core there is a strong sense of enclosure which serves to divorce it somewhat from its agricultural hinterland.
- 4.3.56 The landscape in which this asset lies is principally a construct of post-medieval enclosure although some aspects of the pre-existing medieval landscape survive, such as the earthworks of moated sites and fishponds around the southern and south-western margins of the settlement.
- 4.3.57 Within the historic core views are internalised to the local streetscape which is one dominated by older buildings in the local vernacular. The A361 Banbury to Daventry Road passes through the village to the north of the historic core around the market cross and church. Traffic noise from this relatively busy road intrudes on the local soundscape.
- 4.3.58 The agricultural landscape in which Chipping Warden lies contributes somewhat to its value as defining the wider setting in which it lies, and which has developed alongside the settlement and from which long views towards the village across its agricultural hinterland are possible. This is particularly the case from the north and east.

Field Farm (GLB168)

- 4.3.59 Building are shown in this location on the 1st Edition OS map of 1884. This is of local importance as an example of a post enclosure farmstead. Its setting is defined by the agricultural landscape in which it lies and which has developed alongside it.

Field Farm (GLB174)

- 4.3.60 Buildings shown at this location on 1st Edition OS 1884. This is an asset of local importance as an example of a post enclosure farmstead. Its setting is defined by the agricultural landscape in which it lies, and which has developed alongside it.

Aston-le-Walls (GLB176)

- 4.3.61 Aston-le-Walls is a village lying on plateau land between two headwaters of the River Cherwell. The settlement at Aston-le-Walls is not designated as a conservation area but contains the Grade I listed Church of St Leonard with five associated Grade II listed tombs and two other Grade II listed buildings. The Church and associated graveyard (including the tombs) can be attributed a high value as a heritage asset. The two other Grade II listed buildings can be attributed moderate value.

- 4.3.62 Aston-le-Walls lies immediately to the south of the line of the Welsh Road, which may be the line of a former Roman road³⁶. This route may have an Iron Age precursor and appears to have still been in use into the early medieval period when it became an important route linking the Saxon burhs at Buckingham and Warwick³⁷. By the medieval period it was an important drovers' route from north Wales.
- 4.3.63 A settlement at Aston-le-Walls certainly existed before the Norman Conquest, as it is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 when it was divided into two manors, the second being Appletree to the south-west of the village.
- 4.3.64 The Grade I listed Church of St Leonard is predominantly 14th century in date although it does contain some 12th and 13th century fabric. The church was extensively refurbished in the 1870s. The manor lies on what is now the western periphery of the settlement and some associated earthworks are present close to the Grade II listed 17th century manor house. Fishponds, likely associated with the manor, also survive as features on the north-west edge of the village.
- 4.3.65 Some evidence for the medieval open field system survives as faint earthworks of ridge and furrow in the surrounding fields, especially on the northern side of the settlement beyond the Welsh Road. Apart from the church the built heritage of Aston-le-Walls is post-medieval in date.
- 4.3.66 The Manor House (Manor Farmhouse) is of late 17th century date with 18th century alterations but incorporates some 16th century fabric (beams and stud work). The house is constructed of the local iron and limestone with its front elevation facing north-east. To the rear are gardens and a number of outbuildings beyond which there is an area that appears as if it may be a simple designed landscape bounded by to the south-west by planted mature shelter belt and to the north by a disused railway line of the East and West Junction Railway (E&WJR). This landscape is not shown on the 1st Edition OS of 1884 or the 1851 Tithe map so is not of great antiquity, although a curving boundary on the north side running from Washbrook Farm, overlain by the E&WJR and running towards Valley View Farm could suggest an ancient boundary, possibly of the medieval manor's demesne.
- 4.3.67 Village earthworks, including fishponds and ridge and furrow are present to the north of the house. To the south-east is a collection of recent large agricultural buildings and a walled yard. The walled yard is shown on the 1851 Tithe map. The same map indicates that a small plantation was present immediately to the rear (west) of the house at this date.
- 4.3.68 The predominantly agricultural landscape in which Aston-le-Walls lies is a construct of post-medieval parliamentary enclosure. There has evidently been little change in the nature of the local land division immediately around the settlement since at least 1800 and probably since enclosure. The general layout of the fields remains as depicted on the 1851 Tithe Ma, with some minor changes from more recent amalgamation and division coupled with the imposition of the E&WJR. The 1851 Tithe Map also clearly

³⁶ Margary, I., (1973).

³⁷ Battlefields Trust, (2012).

shows the historic core of the village lying along Main Street; this was extended in the late 20th century by residential infill to the north and north-east of the church.

- 4.3.69 During World War II Chipping Warden Airfield was established on the south-east edge of the village.
- 4.3.70 The value of this asset lies in the historical and architectural interest of its built form and in particular that of the Grade I listed Church of St Leonard and its association with its churchyard and the Grade II manor house with its grounds to the south. Apart from this the settlement has little historical coherence. The isolated location within an agricultural landscape and its close association with the operation of the adjacent airfield at Chipping Warden (GLB162) during World War II contribute somewhat to its value.
- 4.3.71 Within the village centre and its historic core near the church, views are very much internalised to the local streetscape. An exception to this is the Manor House which has more open views to the north and north-east over its grounds (GLB177) and the wider agricultural landscape beyond.
- 4.3.72 The principal view from the Manor House lies to its front elevation which faces north-east towards the village and church. Views will probably also be important from the rear elevation across the gardens and adjacent park. These views will likely be contained by the mature shelterbelt, which encloses this area. Views to the north-west from the main house may be constrained by an outbuilding attached to the north of the house.

Paradise Farm (GLB194)

- 4.3.73 This is a Grade II listed 17th century farmhouse built in the local ironstone vernacular to the south of Lower Boddington. As an example of a pre-parliamentary enclosure farmhouse on the edge of the village of Lower Boddington it can be attributed moderate value.
- 4.3.74 Paradise Farmhouse stands on the extreme southern edge of the village with its principal elevations facing to the north-east and south-west; a modern barn and other agricultural outbuildings lie to its west and north interrupting views in these directions. The farm stands within a hedged enclosure with a small copse directly in front of its south-west facing view.
- 4.3.75 Medieval village earthworks (GLB201) surround this farmstead suggesting it lies at the heart of a larger medieval settlement. This provides time depth to understanding the development of Paradise Farm. This contributes to its value.
- 4.3.76 Paradise Farm forms an element within the Lower Boddington landscape (GLB226) and alongside the medieval village earthworks (GLB201) acts a focus for this landscape. This contributes to the value of all three assets

Lower Boddington (GLB198)

- 4.3.77 Lower Boddington is a village lying on slightly higher ground within the catchment of the headwaters of the River Cherwell. The ground slopes downwards from the village

to the west and north-west. Lower Boddington lies within the parish of Boddington along with the neighbouring and larger village of Upper Boddington.

- 4.3.78 No conservation area is designated at Lower Boddington and the village contains eleven Grade II listed buildings of post-medieval date that are rated overall as assets of moderate value.
- 4.3.79 Lower Boddington lies astride the line of the Welsh Road, which may be the line of a former Roman road³⁸. This route may have an Iron Age precursor and appears to have still been in use into the early medieval period when it became an important route linking the Saxon burhs at Buckingham and Warwick³⁹. By the medieval period it was an important drovers' route from North Wales.
- 4.3.80 A settlement within Boddington parish existed before the Norman Conquest as it is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086; it is, however, uncertain at what date that two distinct villages developed within the parish. The two settlements of Upper and Lower Boddington certainly had separate identities by 1758 as they are recorded in the Act of Parliament that combined them into a single parish⁴⁰.
- 4.3.81 Extensive evidence for the medieval open field system survives as well preserved earthworks of ridge and furrow in the surrounding fields, especially to the west and north-west of Lower Boddington (GLB189 and GLB199), where the curving selions (medieval field divisions), field parcels and intervening headlands are clearly visible. Village earthworks, including potential house platforms (tofts) are also visible as earthworks and a possible mill mound on the northern edge of Lower Boddington and to the west of Lower Boddington (GLB201) around Paradise Farm.
- 4.3.82 Two Grade II listed buildings stand on the western margins of Lower Boddington, these comprise Paradise Farmhouse (GLB194) and Old House Farmhouse. Both date to the 17th century and are built from the local lias⁴¹.
- 4.3.83 The predominantly agricultural landscape in which Lower Boddington lies is a construct of post-medieval parliamentary enclosure. There has evidently been little change in the nature of the local land division immediately around the settlement since at least 1800 and likely since enclosure. The 1st Edition OS map of 1884 shows Lower Boddington as comprising of a ribbon of farmsteads lying alongside the Banbury Road and Hill Road. Modern residential development has now in-filled the spaces on these roads and the angle between them.
- 4.3.84 A canal feeder loops around the southern edge of the village linking Boddington Reservoir to the north-east of the village with the Oxford Canal.
- 4.3.85 The historic core of the village is aligned along the Banbury Road Hill Roads, but has been in-filled by modern housing development. An important contribution to the value of the settlement as a whole lies in its buried archaeological resource that can inform on its development through the medieval and post medieval periods. The

³⁸ Margary, I., (1973).

³⁹ Battlefields Trust, (2012).

⁴⁰ Unknown, (2004), *The Parish of Boddington: History, Information and Directory* (10th ed.).

⁴¹ Wood-Jones R., (1963), *Traditional Domestic Architecture in the Banbury Region*, Wykham Books, London.

setting in which the village lies does not contribute to any great extent to its value except with regard to Paradise Farmhouse.

- 4.3.86 The landscape in which these assets lie is principally a construct of post-medieval enclosure although extensive aspects of the pre-existing medieval landscape survive (GLB228) such as the well preserved ridge and furrow which is easily understood as part of the open field system at Lower Boddington. This is discussed more fully in Section 6.
- 4.3.87 Historical legibility is only present on the western margin of the village around Paradise Farm with the adjacent medieval village earthworks (GLB201) and belt of ridge and furrow to the west. The Lower Boddington landscape (GLB228) which surrounds the village has considerably more historical legibility and coherence than the village itself. This landscape can clearly be understood as an example of a medieval open field system that has had enclosure super-imposed over it. This contributes to the value of the medieval earthworks (GLB201) on the periphery of the post medieval village, but little to the listed buildings within the village itself. Within the historic core views are very much internalised to the local streetscape and are dominated by modern infill.

Spella House (GLB204)

- 4.3.88 Buildings are shown at this location on the 1st Edition OS map of 1884. This is an asset of local importance as a 19th century residence built within a rural context. Its location in an agricultural setting alongside the Welsh lane defines its setting. This rural context contributes to its value.

4.4 Selected designated built heritage assets within the ZTV

- 4.4.1 The criterion for inclusion within this section is that the Proposed Scheme is assessed in the Impact Assessment Table in CH-003-015 as having a major or moderate adverse effect upon a designated asset which lies within the ZTV but outside of the 500m study area. Descriptions and considerations of the value of all designated assets within the ZTV can be found in the Gazetteer in CH-002-015.

Greatworth (GLB029)

- 4.4.2 Greatworth is a village set on a hillside within the undulating Till topped limestone uplands of West Northamptonshire. The area lies within the catchment of the Tove and Great Ouse.
- 4.4.3 The southern part of Greatworth is designated as a conservation area by South Northamptonshire District Council and the village contains one Grade II* listed building (The Church of St Peter) with an associated Grade II* listed tombstone and eight other associated Grade II listed tombs. To the south of St Peters Church is the Grade II listed Manor House with six other associated Grade II listed structures. Three other Grade II listed buildings lie within the village. The core of the historic settlement at Greatworth, with its coherent groupings of listed and non-designated buildings within a conservation area adding to its historic character, can be attributed a high value as a heritage asset.

- 4.4.4 Archaeological evidence from the area immediately around and within the village of Greatworth points to human activity having been present in the locality from at least the Neolithic period onwards and including Romano-British and Saxon settlement activity.
- 4.4.5 A settlement at Greatworth existed before the Norman Conquest as it is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 when it was part of the large group of estates apportioned by William the Conqueror to his half-brother Bishop of Odo of Bayeaux. The earliest fabric in the Church of St Peter is 13th century in date but it is believed that the church stands on the site of an earlier Saxon foundation⁴². The medieval manor lay to the south of the church in the area now occupied by the house and grounds of the Manor House and ridge and furrow is still visible in the fields around the village especially to its south. A medieval hunting park is also recorded at Greatworth the boundaries of which may partly be preserved by existing field boundaries to the south-east of the village and extending beyond Halse.
- 4.4.6 The medieval open fields of Greatworth were partly enclosed by private agreement in 1634. The 1634 Enclosure map indicates that this appears to have been restricted to the north, south and east of the village (GLB220). Marston Field to the west appears to have remained unenclosed. The network of local minor roads (GLB232 and GLB233) may also have developed during the process of enclosure but may preserve aspects of a pre-existing network.
- 4.4.7 The present Manor House predominantly dates to the early 19th century after it was rebuilt following a fire in 1793. The house does, however, contain some surviving 17th century fabric. A drawing of the house by an unknown artist dating to 1723 exists and shows the house as it was in the early 18th century.
- 4.4.8 The predominantly agricultural landscape in which Greatworth lies is therefore a construct of post-medieval piecemeal private enclosure but with significant alterations by more recent field partition and amalgamation. Fields are generally defined by hedgerows often including mature trees. In 1891 the Stratford upon Avon and Midland Junction Railway was built past Greatworth on its east side and was closed in the 1950s. The line of this railway can still be seen to the north-east of the village.
- 4.4.9 Expansion of the settlement to the north of its historic core demarcated by its conservation area occurred during the later 20th century with the addition of modern estate housing.
- 4.4.10 The value of this asset is derived from its historical and architectural interest as a rural settlement characterised by the local vernacular. Aside from the Grade II* listed medieval Church of St Peter with associated Grade II* and Grade II listed post-medieval tombs and the Grade II listed Manor House with its associated features, this built fabric is predominantly one of non-designated former farmhouses and associated outbuildings; these are principally of late 17th to 19th century date and built fairly uniformly in the local limestone vernacular with steep pitched roofs. An

⁴² South Northamptonshire District Council C, (2012), *Greatworth Conservation Appraisal (Draft for consultation)*.

important aspect of Greatworth's value will lie in the buried archaeology within and around the settlement that will document human activity around and within the settlement possibly since at least the Neolithic period.

- 4.4.11 The street scene within the historic core has a strong sense of enclosure due to the close proximity of its buildings to the road and boundary walls that delimit most of the property boundaries. Views out of the settlement are only possible from its peripheries with the most of the important views existing to its south where the ground falls relatively steeply away. An important view is also identified from the churchyard across the fields to its east.
- 4.4.12 The agricultural landscape in which Greatworth lies also contributes to the value of the settlement. The landscape is principally a construct of post-medieval enclosure although some aspects of the pre-existing medieval landscape survive in the form of the ridge and furrow that is still visible to the east and south of the village. The village is very well served by a network of public footpaths from which the village and its setting can be appreciated. Although this appreciation is keenest from the south and south-east.

Edgcote House and associated hamlet (GLB141)

- 4.4.13 Edgcote is a small hamlet nestling beside the headwaters of the River Cherwell. The hamlet comprises of the Grade I listed St James Church, the Grade I listed Edgcote House and associated ancillary and estate buildings; the majority of which are Grade II listed. These associated Grade II buildings include The Old Rectory, The Mill House and two associated bridges over the Cherwell, The Stables, a service wing, a dovecot and the kitchen gardens and walls. The wider estate also contains the four listed buildings of Trafford Bridge Farm (GLB135) (an estate farm); Brock House, a dam to control the water supply to the Pool (GLB136); Edgcote Drive Cottages (GLB139) and Wardington Gate Farm (GLB140)).
- 4.4.14 The hamlet at Edgcote, with its coherent grouping of a country house with adjoining church and associated estate buildings arranged around a designed landscape set within newly enclosed agricultural lands can be attributed a high value as a heritage asset.
- 4.4.15 The eastern margin of the Edgcote estate rests at Trafford Bridge (GLB132) on the Welsh Road (GLB115); this road may have its origins as a Roman, or even earlier, routeway. This route appears to have then become established during the Saxon period as a road along the edge of the Danelaw between the Saxon burhs of Buckingham and Warwick. During the medieval period and into the post-medieval period, this road was a drovers' route for driving cattle from North Wales to London and was still in use as such when the present Edgcote House was built in the 1740s.
- 4.4.16 A settlement certainly existed at Edgcote at the time of the Norman Conquest, as it is recorded in the Domesday Book. This records that the estate was held by Geoffrey de Mowbray. The Church of James stands beside and to the south of Edgcote House. The church is primarily 13th century in date with some later additions and contains an interesting collection of post-medieval monuments to the Chauncy family. The manor lay where Edgcote House now stands and a series of fish and mill ponds extended

along the valley floor of the Cherwell to the east of this where The Pool is now situated.

- 4.4.17 Earthworks associated with the medieval village are visible as earthworks in the fields to the west of Edgcote House; the village was levelled in the 1780s to clear it from views to the west from the new Edgcote House. Some medieval ridge and furrow also still survives as earthworks on the lower slopes of Edgcote Hill between Trafford Bridge and Edgcote Lodge Farms.
- 4.4.18 During the medieval and earlier post-medieval period the Edgcote Estate has counted amongst its owners Robert the Bruce (who had the estate confiscated by Edward I after his rebellion of 1306), Henry V, Thomas Cromwell (Vicar General to Henry VIII and architect of the Dissolution of the Monasteries) and briefly, after Cromwell's execution, Anne of Cleves. Anne of Cleves never dwelled at Edgcote but sold the estate to a prominent Northamptonshire lawyer and Member of Parliament: William Chauncy. The Chauncys continued to hold the estate until 1795 when it passed through the distaff to Thomas Carter and thence to the Cartwrights⁴³. None of the owners preceding the Chauncys can be directly associated with the existing 18th century Edgcote House.
- 4.4.19 An estate plan of 1743 that shows the orientation of the house and parkland that William Chauncy bought at Edgcote during the Tudor period was principally on a north to south axis with an avenue and garden to the south of the house and a deer park to its east, lying beyond a kitchen garden and orchard. To the south of the Church of St James lies the Old Rectory, a Grade II listed building of early 18th century date.
- 4.4.20 In the 1740s the old Tudor house was demolished and replaced by the current Edgcote House built between 1748 and 1754 in ironstone ashlar with limestone dressings to a design by the architect William Jones. Edgcote House is a relatively early and very well preserved example of the Palladian style that became fashionable in the 1750s and its exterior is unspoilt by later additions. The house reflects the wealth and status of the Chauncys as a mercantile family whose wealth was increasing due to their close involvement in the East India Company's trade with India and the Orient. Edgcote House featured as Netherfield in the 1995 BBC production of *Pride and Prejudice*. This public perception and recognition contributes to the appreciation and value of the house.
- 4.4.21 At the same time and immediately to the north of the house were constructed a range of buildings in the same style. These are all Grade II listed and comprise a stable block built to another William Jones design, a new service wing, the dovecot and a kitchen garden with enclosing walling. To the north was a new mill building, the Grade II listed Mill House, and two Grade II listed bridges over the Cherwell.
- 4.4.22 The hamlet is very isolated and peaceful which judging by the reworking of the estate in the middle to late 18th century is probably a deliberate part of the Chauncy's desired scheme. Thus included the movement of the village of Edgcote away from the

⁴³ Strutt, S., (2008).

house and a parkland design that screens the house and park from much of its agricultural hinterland. The isolation and peace therefore contribute both to the value of the house and its associated parkland (GLB134).

- 4.4.23 Work was commenced in the years preceding the building of the new house and estate buildings to rework the deer park to the east of the house to create a pleasure ground in the new landscaped vogue. The house looks east across this designed landscape with ornamental ponds and plantings (GLB134). This is discussed in more detail in Section 6.
- 4.4.24 The old Tudor hall and the re-working of its associated landscape to form the beginnings of the parkland associated with the present Edgcote House are believed to be memorialised in the poem "Crumble Hall" by the labouring class poet Mary Leapor. This poem was written in 1745 when she was employed as a servant at Edgcote House.
- 4.4.25 The new pleasure grounds extended east from the house along the valley of the Cherwell with a number of existing mill and fishponds in the valley being amalgamated in the 1790s to form the single ornamental lake called The Pool that occupies the valley floor to this day. The view can probably best be appreciated from the salon of Edgcote House. A visitor to the house in 1799 described this view as "looking down to a piece of water which, though made, is a very considerable feature in the place from the rooms in the back front, the ground falling well to it, and the water being seen in an agreeable manner through and under the trees"⁴⁴. The pool is now flanked to its north by mature woodland, which extends almost to Trafford Bridge as Oisierbed Spinney. The pool was further extended after 2006 with the addition of a canal (in a somewhat incongruous 17th century formal style) extending to the east of The Pool.
- 4.4.26 To the south of the pleasure ground and again dating to the 1740s is a kitchen garden and housing for a keeper and other estate staff. This comprises the Grade II listed Brock House, Keepers Cottage and kitchen garden walls. The kitchen garden had a central canal that was fed by a reservoir to the west. This reservoir served as irrigation for the pleasure grounds and may have served the ornamental lake suggesting that there may originally have been a fountain associated with the lake; the pond may also have generated a head of water to deliver water to the house for domestic purposes. A Grade II listed dam of 18th century date maintains the head of water in this reservoir.
- 4.4.27 Another key view in understanding the settlement is that across the earthworks of the deserted medieval village to the north-west (GLB142).

⁴⁴ Strutt, S., (2008).

5 Historic map regression

- 5.1.1 The analysis of the cartographic evidence for the study area has been integrated within the archaeological and historical baseline narrative (Sections 3 and 4 of this report).

6 Historic landscape

6.1 Historic landscape character

- 6.1.1 The study area is relatively homogenous, characterised by regular, rectilinear fields with the straight boundaries indicative of parliamentary enclosure. The landscape in this area is overwhelmingly rural, with occasional isolated farms. These complexes are generally a mixture of historic farmhouses, and more modern industrial outbuildings and barns.
- 6.1.2 The historic landscape character within the study area is predominantly one formed by private and parliamentary enclosure during the post-medieval period. Much of the enclosure was private and had occurred before 1800 but this was later modified by Parliamentary Act in the later 18th to early 19th centuries.
- 6.1.3 Between Halse Copse and Lower Thorpe the fieldscape is mainly one created by subdivision of earlier post-medieval enclosures. This subdivision was predominantly undertaken privately⁴⁵. Between Lower Thorpe and Lower Boddington the fieldscape is mainly formed by parliamentary enclosure undertaken between 1760 and 1780. This has been partially fragmented by later amalgamation of some fields⁴⁶.
- 6.1.4 Within what is predominantly a post-medieval framework aspects of the pre-existing medieval landscape survive, principally as areas of ridge and furrow and associated headlands, indicating areas in which an open field system existed during the medieval period. Most of these can be associated with either the existing historic settlements at Greatworth (GLBo29), Lower Thorpe (GLBo86), Thorpe Mandeville (GLBo80) and Aston-le-Walls (GLB176) or settlements that have since been deserted, such as at Trafford (GLB147), Edgcote (GLB142) and Appletree Farm (GLB172).
- 6.1.5 Another aspect of the medieval countryside was the establishment of royal and private forests and parks for hunting. Parts of the study area near Greatworth may have fallen within the south-western edge of Whittlewood Forest. The layout of modern field boundaries and trackways between Radstone and Halse Grange, on the boundary between CFA14 and CFA15 could indicate that a former park of medieval date lies in this area. This could be associated with the record of a park at Greatworth (GLBo03) although the northern and western extent cannot be plotted from modern mapping due to disruption by construction of the Banbury branch of the Great Central Railway (GLBo24).
- 6.1.6 There has been very little change in the field boundaries within the study area since the 1st Edition OS mapping of the 1880s and there is good survival of historically important hedgerows, 29 of which lie within the land required to construct the Proposed Scheme.
- 6.1.7 The headwaters of the Cherwell were used as a catchment for water to be fed into the Oxford Canal (GLBo83), designed in the 1760s by James Brindley; a feeder (GLB196)

⁴⁵ Northamptonshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment, (2007).

⁴⁶ Northamptonshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment, (2007).

for the canal drains from the higher ground near Lower Boddington westwards to the canal at its summit above the Claydon flight of locks.

- 6.1.8 In the mid-19th to early 20th century three railway lines were built within the study area. These comprise the Northampton and Banbury Junction Railway passing Greatworth, (GLBo24) which was opened in 1872; a branch of the Great Central Railway (GLBo94) connecting to Banbury passing to the north of Thorpe Mandeville which was opened in 1909; and the East and West Junction Railway (GLB180) passing Aston-le-Walls which was opened in 1873. All three were constructed in order to exploit the local building stone and ironstone resources of the region; all three were closed in the 1950s/60s.

6.2 Selected historic landscape components

- 6.2.1 Within the broader tapestry of historic landscape in the study area the following landscapes within 500m of the land required to construct the Proposed Scheme have been identified as having particular qualities with regard to historical legibility.

17th century enclosures around Greatworth (GLB220)

- 6.2.2 This is an area of 17th century enclosures around Greatworth mapped on 1634 Enclosure map. This is a very well preserved early post-medieval and pre-parliamentary enclosure landscape. Most of the field boundaries in this area are marked on the 1634 Enclosure map which qualifies nearly all of the hedgerows in the area under the criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. A number of these lie within the land required to construct the Proposed Scheme (GLBo17, GLBo21, GLBo23, GLBo25, GLBo26, GLBo27, GLBo30, GLBo31, GLBo40, GLBo41, GLBo42, GLBo44, GLBo45, GLBo46 and GLBo47).
- 6.2.3 Further time depth to this landscape is provided by the fragmentary elements of ridge and furrow (GLBo32, GLBo44, GLB217, GLB218 and GLB 219) which provide evidence for the medieval open filed system that the 1634 enclosures replaces. Both Helmdon Road (GLB232) and the B4525 (GLB233) can be considered as integral elements within this landscape as routeways that had probably been established before 1634.
- 6.2.4 This landscape component is particularly well preserved to the north and east of Greatworth (GLBo29) and provides a setting with demonstrable time depth and historical legibility that contributes to the value of the village of Greatworth (GLBo29) and to Greatworth Hall (GLBo22).
- 6.2.5 This asset lies within the land required for construction of the Proposed Scheme.

Thorpe Mandeville and Lower Thorpe landscape (GLB224)

- 6.2.6 This is a landscape component that comprises a largely intact medieval landscape containing elements of a medieval open field system which includes ridge and furrow (GLBo81, GLBo82, GLBo84 and GLB221) and areas of trackway and lynchet (GLB222). Within this field system are elements of two conjoined systems of probable medieval fish/mill ponds (GLBo78 and GLBo85).
- 6.2.7 This landscape has its focus on the hamlet of Lower Thorpe (GLBo86) which is an integral element. Banbury Lane (GLBo79) that passes through Lower Thorpe is the

principal route through this landscape and used to be a medieval drovers' route between Banbury and Northampton. Another probable medieval drovers' route (GLB230) establishes its southern boundary.

- 6.2.8 The landscape is also clearly associated with the village of Thorpe Mandeville (GLBo80) and the deserted medieval settlement at Costow (GLBo72).
- 6.2.9 Other elements that form this landscape component include the scheduled mound at Lower Thorpe (GLBo83) which may be a medieval or later windmill mound.
- 6.2.10 The northern boundary of the component lies on the Thorpe Mandeville and Culworth parish boundary (GLBo96) and the north-western boundary is effectively set by the line of the Banbury branch of the Great Central Railway (GLBo94). To the south-west the landscape extends beyond Thorpe Mandeville.
- 6.2.11 The landscape also contains a good survival of hedgerows that meet the historical criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (GLBo90, GLBo91, GLBo92, GLBo93, GLBo95 and GLB100). A possible early field boundary has also been identified which may pre-date the medieval open field system (GLB223).
- 6.2.12 All of these elements contribute to the value of this landscape component which forms an integral part of the settings for Costow (GLBo72), Thorpe Mandeville and Lower Thorpe (GLBo86) by providing a historical landscape context for them which is readily understood and appreciated.
- 6.2.13 The time depth of this landscape extends to at least the medieval period but includes elements that have evolved during the post-medieval period. This is particularly the case with the systems of ponds (GLBo78 and o85) that occupy the small valleys that lie at the heart of the landscape. These may include evidence for industry being present within the valley during the early post-medieval period with a subsequent 18th century landscape design to promote wildfowl and fish.
- 6.2.14 This asset lies within the land required to construct the Proposed Scheme.

Trafford Bridge to Trafford House landscape (GLB226)

- 6.2.15 This is a relatively well preserved landscape that may have its origins as an area of medieval (or earlier) meadowland within the valley floor of a headwater of the River Cherwell.
- 6.2.16 This landscape comprises elements of meadowland with a possible water management system in the valley floor of the Cherwell (GLB 146); the mill at Culworth Mill (GLB130); the associated buried remains of a water management system and possibly an earlier mill (GLB131); the deserted medieval village earthworks and medieval fishponds at Trafford (GLB147); and Trafford House (GLB148). A small section of ridge and furrow to the east of Trafford Bridge (GLB225) extends the Edgcote Battlefield (GLB108) landscape into this component. All these contribute to the value of this landscape.
- 6.2.17 The medieval (and most probably much earlier) routeway on the line of Welsh Lane (GLB115) and Trafford Bridge are also elements that contribute to the value of this asset and vice versa.

6.2.18 The Edgcote Parkland landscape (GLB134) that lies to the west of Trafford Bridge extends this landscape of meadow and fishponds into Edgcote parish but has been substantially altered by the implementation of a designed parkland by the Chauncys in the later 18th century. Despite this continuity is apparent and the two landscapes can be considered to be conjoined. This contributes to both their values.

6.2.19 This asset lies adjacent to the land required to construct the Proposed Scheme.

Lower Boddington landscape (GLB228)

6.2.20 This is a landscape component that comprises a relatively discernible medieval landscape containing elements of a medieval open field system represented by ridge and furrow (GLB189, GLB196, GLB195 and GLB200). These elements of ridge and furrow surround the village of Lower Boddington (GLB198) but can be most directly associated with the medieval village earthworks at Lower Boddington (GLB201). At the heart of the earthworks lies the Grade II listed Paradise Farmhouse (GLB194) which can be considered to be an element within the landscape that contributes to its value

6.2.21 The medieval (and probably earlier) drovers' route on the line of Welsh Lane (GLB115) can also be considered to be an integral element of this landscape. The component also contains a number of hedgerows (GLB185, GLB186, GLB187 and GLB188) that add to its value by meeting the historical criteria of the Hedgerow Regulation 1997.

6.2.22 This landscape is an important part of the setting of the medieval earthworks at Lower Boddington, and by association Paradise Farmhouse (GLB194), by providing a clear and appreciable legibility to their historic landscape context.

6.2.23 This asset lies within the land required to construct the Proposed Scheme.

6.3 Historic parks and gardens

6.3.1 This section discusses historic parks and gardens, either designated or non-designated which lie wholly or partially within land required for construction of the Proposed Scheme, the 500m study and where relevant the ZTV. They area also listed in the Gazetteer in Volume 5: Appendix CH-002-015. Descriptions and consideration of the value of all designated historic parks and gardens within the ZTV can be found in the Volume 5: CH-002-015. The assets are mapped on Maps CH-01-047b to CH-01-053 and CH-02-025 to CH-02-027 (Volume 5, Cultural Heritage Map Book).

Edgcote House Park (GLB134)

6.3.2 To the east of Edgcote House (GLB141) lies a designed landscape that originated as a medieval deer park but was reworked as a landscaped pleasure ground in the 18th century. This parkland is not a registered park and garden but is still a relatively good example of its kind complete with an ornamental pond known as The Pool that was created out of a medieval system of ponds and leats.

6.3.3 An estate plan of 1743 shows the orientation of the house and parkland that William Chauncy bought at Edgcote during the Tudor period was principally on a north to south axis with an avenue and garden to the south of the house and a deer park to its east and lying beyond a kitchen garden and orchard.

- 6.3.4 In the 1740s the Tudor hall was demolished and Edgcote Hall (GLB141) built. At the same time, the deer park to the east of the house was re-worked to create a pleasure ground in the new landscaped vogue. The old Tudor hall and the re-working of its associated landscape to form the beginnings of the parkland associated with the present Edgcote House are believed to be memorialised in the poem “Crumble Hall” by the local labouring class poet Mary Leapor.
- 6.3.5 The new pleasure grounds extended east from the house along the valley of the Cherwell with a number of existing mill and fishponds in the valley being amalgamated in the 1790s to form the single ornamental lake called The Pool. The eastern edge of the park lies along the line of Welsh Lane and contains an ornamental planting beside the Cherwell called Oisierbed Spinney.
- 6.3.6 The view across these grounds can probably best be appreciated from the salon of Edgcote House (GLB141) and is recorded by a visitor to the house in 1799. Views to the north and south from both the house and the parkland have mainly been deliberately screened from the agricultural hinterland by planting of a shelterbelt, including Oisierbed Spinney. A gap in this shelterbelt is present in the view eastward towards Trafford Bridge (GLB132) and the agricultural landscape beyond. Both these features can be considered to be peripheral elements of the park and add to its value.
- 6.3.7 The park is easily understood as an example of 18th century landscape design and lies within a very peaceful rural hinterland in which estate farms associated with Edgcote House lie. The peaceful nature of the park will have been a key part of its design rationale.
- 6.3.8 This park although not designated can be considered to have particularly important qualities with regard to its direct association with Edgcote House (GLB141) and historic legibility as part of a wider estate that includes the estate farms of Trafford Bridge Farm (GLB135), Home Farm (within grouping GLB141) and Wardington Gate Farm (GLB140).

6.4 Historic battlefields

- 6.4.1 This section discusses historic battlefields, either designated or non-designated which lie wholly or partially within land required for construction of the Proposed Scheme, the 500m study and where relevant the ZTV. They are also listed in the Gazetteer in Appendix CH-002-015. Descriptions and consideration of the value of all designated historic parks and gardens within the ZTV can be found in the Gazetteer in CH-002-015. The assets are mapped on Maps CH-01-0247 to CH-01-053 and CH-02-025 to CH-02-027 (Volume 5, Cultural Heritage Map Book).

Battle of Edgcote (GLB108)

- 6.4.2 The battle of Edgcote was fought on either the 24 or 26 July 1469 during the Wars of the Roses. The rough location of the battlefield is known to lie somewhere in the vicinity of Edgcote and very likely in the area now identified as Danesmoor, an area of

lower lying ground to the east of Edgcote Hill⁴⁷. The battlefield site of the Battle of Edgcote is a registered battlefield.

- 6.4.3 The battle at Edgcote is recognised as being an important and bloody encounter that had important ramifications not only for the campaign of 1469-71, but also for the final outcome of the wars and resulted in the death of some 168 of the Welsh nobility as well as numerous of their followers. The battle was also the first battle in which Henry Beaufort, then aged 12, fought. Henry Beaufort would later become Henry VII.
- 6.4.4 The battle was a defeat of a force loyal to Edward IV under the Earls of Pembroke and Stafford by a rebel force under Robin of Rededale (likely a pseudonym for Sir William Conyers) loyal to Warwick the Kingmaker. The area in which the battle was fought can be attributed a high value as a heritage asset.
- 6.4.5 Two near contemporary chroniclers briefly record the action at Edgcote; these are Warkworth⁴⁸ and Waurin⁴⁹, both writing in the 1470s. A number of chroniclers and antiquarians also record the action over the next hundred years or so, these include: the Sprotti Chronica⁵⁰ penned in about 1520, Edward Hall writing in 1548⁵¹, Polydore Vergil writing in 1555⁵², John Stow⁵³, writing in 1592 and John Speed who records the battle on his 1610 map of Northamptonshire. There is also a corpus of near contemporary elegiac poems written by Welsh poets including Guto'r Glyn⁵⁴, Lewys Glyn Cothi⁵⁵, Dafydd Llwyd of Manthafarn⁵⁶, Hywel Swrdwal⁵⁷, Bedo Brwynllys⁵⁸, Ieuan Devlwyn⁵⁹ and Huw Cae Llwyd⁶⁰ honouring the principal Welsh casualties of Edgcote.
- 6.4.6 The most comprehensive account of the battle is that written by Hall almost 80 years after the event. Hall is, however, widely considered to be the most reliable source with regard to accounts of the Wars of the Roses and is the one usually used in recreating the events of that turbulent period⁶¹.
- 6.4.7 Based on the different accounts, provided by Waurin and Hall, two interpretations of the exact location of the fighting at Edgcote have been developed. The interpretation favoured by the Battlefields Trust and forming the basis for the current application to have the battlefield registered is principally based on Hall's account of the battle⁶²

⁴⁷ Battlefields Trust, (2012).

⁴⁸ Warkworth, A *chronicle of the first thirteen years of the reign of King Edward IV*.

⁴⁹ Waurin, *Recueil des ghroniques et anciennes istories de la Grant Bretagne, a present nomme Engleterre*.

⁵⁰ Hearne, T., (1719), *A remarkable fragment of an old English chronicle or history of the affairs of King Henry the Fourth*.

⁵¹ Hall, E., (1548), *The union of the two noble and illustrious families of Lancaster and York*.

⁵² Polydore Vergil, (1555), *Anglica Historia*.

⁵³ Stow, J., (1592), *The annals of England: Faithfully collected out of the most authentic authors, records, and other monuments of antiquity from the first inhabitation until this present year 1592*.

⁵⁴ Guto'r Glyn, *Elegy for William Herbert*.

⁵⁵ Lewys Glyn Cothi, *Elegy for Thomas Ap Roger Vaughn*.

⁵⁶ Dafydd Llwyd of Mathafarn, *Elegy for William Herbert And For Rhys Ap Dafyd Llwyd, missing after the battle of Banbury*.

⁵⁷ Hywel Swrdwal, *Elegy for William Herbert*.

⁵⁸ Bedo Brwynllys, *Elegy for William Herbert*.

⁵⁹ Ieuan Devlwyn, *Elegy for William Herbert*.

⁶⁰ Huw Cae Llwyd, *Elegy for William and Richard Herbert*.

⁶¹ Haigh, P., (1997), *Where both the hosts fought: The Rebellions of 1469 – 1470 and the Battles of Edgcote and Lose-cote-field*, Battlefields Press, Stockton-on-Tees.

⁶² Hall, E., (1548), *The union of the two noble and illustrious families of Lancaster and York*.

and is backed by recent documentary and landscape research by David Hall⁶³, and Glenn Foard⁶⁴.

- 6.4.8 This interpretation suggests that the battle took place on Danes Moor (as stated by Stow⁶⁵ and drawn by Speed on his 1610), which closely matches Hall's account of what was probably a low lying and flat area of moor within the parish of Edgcote, with three areas of closely spaced higher ground immediately adjacent.
- 6.4.9 An alternative proposition, first posited by Beesley in 1841⁶⁶ and subsequently taken up by Haigh⁶⁷, is based principally on Waurin's account⁶⁸. This account describes the action as being fought over a stream, which is identified by Beesley as the Cherwell.
- 6.4.10 The topography of the area is little changed since the medieval period with Edgcote Hill, the hills between Thorpe Mandeville and Culworth, the hill on which Culworth stands and the rising ground to the north of the Cherwell and Jobs Hill broadly encompassing the area in which the fighting took place. The villages of Chipping Warden, Culworth, Thorpe Mandeville, Wardington and Edgcote had all existed for centuries before the battle was fought, although Edgcote was likely significantly larger than today's little hamlet. It is also possible that a mill once stood on the north bank of the Cherwell, close by Trafford Bridge.
- 6.4.11 The most enduring aspect of the local landscape is likely to be the layout of major roads. During the medieval period three principal routes traversed the area in which the battle was fought.
- 6.4.12 The first of these is the road leading from Banbury to Daventry (GLB160) and thence to Northampton (the modern A361) which passes through Wardington and Chipping Warden to the west of the likely location of the battlefield. This was a principal route from the south-west and South Wales to the East Midlands and thence the North.
- 6.4.13 The second is the line of Welsh Lane (GLB115) which passes through Chipping Warden (GLB151) then via Trafford Bridge (GLB132) to Culworth to the east of the likely location of the battlefield. Although this is now a minor road in 1469 it was probably part of an important drover's route linking North Wales with London. This route now crosses the Cherwell over Trafford Bridge; the present structure is post medieval in date but probably stands in the location of a former crossing point (most probably a ford).
- 6.4.14 The last is the line of Banbury Lane (GLB079) leading from Banbury through Thorpe Mandeville to Culworth and onwards via Towcester to Northampton. Again this is now only a minor road but in 1469 was probably another important drovers' route linking Banbury with Northampton. This route lies on the southern edge of the area in which the battle was fought.

⁶³ Hall, D., (1997), Enclosure in Northamptonshire. In: *Northamptonshire Past and Present No. 9*. Northamptonshire Record Society.

⁶⁴ Partida, T. & Foard, G. (et al), (2012), *An Atlas of the Medieval and Early Modern Landscape of Northamptonshire*, Oxbow Books. Oxford.

⁶⁵ Stow, J., (1592), *The annals of England: Faithfully collected out of the most authentic authors, records, and other monuments of antiquity from the first inhabitation until this present year 1592*.

⁶⁶ Beesley, A., (1841), *The History of Banbury*, Nichols and Son. London.

⁶⁷ Haigh, P., (1997).

⁶⁸ Waurin, *Recueil des gchroniques et anciennes istories de la Grant Bretagne, a present nomme Engleterre*.

- 6.4.15 There will also have been further minor trackways linking the settlements of Chipping Warden, Edgcote, Wardington, Culworth and Thorpe Mandeville with each other and their associated ploughlands and pastures, however, the location of these during the medieval period remains uncertain.
- 6.4.16 Other aspects of the medieval landscape in which the battle was fought that may survive are elements of the open field systems of cultivation associated with the settlements at Chipping Warden, Edgcote, Culworth, Thorpe Mandeville and Trafford. Medieval open field cultivation is characterised by the arrangement of ridge and furrow within a relatively open and un-hedged landscape, individual parcels of ridge and furrow often being divided from neighbouring parcels by low banks known as headlands, which also often acted as trackways. Typically medieval ridge and furrow has an S-shaped curve to it with reasonably wide ridges.
- 6.4.17 Elements of the ridge and furrow that made up these open field systems are still visible today either as extant earthworks, marks visible on aerial photography or earthworks that can be discerned by LiDAR mapping. Ridge and furrow is visible as earthworks on the ground and on modern aerial photography in the area immediately to the south of Trafford Bridge (GLB129) and in an area to the west of Trafford Bridge Farm. Very extensive and well preserved ridge and furrow can be seen around the hamlet of Lower Thorpe and Hill Farm (GLBo81, GLBo82, GLBo84 and GLB222) to the south of the likely area of battlefield and to the north of the Cherwell, to the east of Chipping Warden (GLB153).
- 6.4.18 LiDAR imaging in a 500m corridor for the Proposed Scheme has also identified ridge and furrow to the south of the Welsh Road (GLB234) to the south-east of Culworth Mill and in the valley floor to the south-west of Culworth Grounds. LiDAR may also indicate the presence of ridge and furrow within Danesmoor Spinney and just to the north of Osierbed Spinney, which lies to the south of Blackgrounds Farm (GLB227). Relatively large pits have clearly been cut through the ridge and furrow (GLB129) to the south of Trafford Bridge although these are most likely to be quarrying.
- 6.4.19 Considerably more ridge and furrow survived until the 1940s as it appears on aerial photographs of that date, but has since been ploughed away. The 1940s aerial photographs (Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-015) show that ridge and furrow was present over most of the parish of Edgcote at that date excepting in the valley floor of the River Cherwell where the medieval village earthworks of Edgcote (GLB142), on the upper north facing slopes of Edgcote Hill and within the valley floor of the tributary stream of the Cherwell that crosses Danesmoor to the south of Trafford Bridge (GLB129)⁶⁹.
- 6.4.20 Any archaeological remains associated with the battle of Edgcote would not only be of importance to clarifying where and how the battle was fought but would also be significant in the study of 15th century English warfare as a whole.
- 6.4.21 The battlefield can probably be best appreciated from the Battlefields Trail, a national footpath linking the historic battlefields of Edgcote, Cropredy Bridge and Edgehill.

⁶⁹ Battlefields Trust, (2012).

This trail crosses Trafford Bridge from the north then follows the eastern edge of the likely scene of the battle on Danesmoor. The trail has good views across Danesmoor from the lower slopes of the hill that Culworth stands on and likely has a semblance of the view towards the fighting that the rebel reinforcements would have had as they approached from this direction.

- 6.4.22 Aspects of the medieval landscape survive within the area of the battlefield as mapped in support of the potential designation of the battlefield as a registered battlefield by English Heritage. These include the lines of the three routes along which the armies may have marched (A361 Banbury to Daventry Road (GLB160), Welsh Lane (GLB115), and Banbury Road (GLB079)) and areas of ridge and furrow near Trafford Bridge (GLB129 and GLB225) and Blackgrounds (GLB227). These can all be considered to be elements that contribute to the value of the Edgcote Battlefield landscape.
- 6.4.23 The buried remains of a medieval mill and associated leats (GLB131) may also be present near Culworth Mill to the north of Trafford Bridge. The system of probable mill ponds in the Edgcote Parkland (GLB134) that were re-worked to form the ornamental lake The Pool will also have been a contemporary feature to the battle as will have been the now deserted medieval village and system of fishponds at Trafford (GLB147).
- 6.4.24 Principal views within and to the battlefield will be those from Edgcote Hill (likely the first position of the Royalist force) towards Culworth and Trafford Bridge (GLB132) (the approach route(s) of the rebels), and views from Danesmoor and Trafford Bridge towards Culworth (the direction that rebel reinforcements arrived from). The Battlefields Trail crosses Trafford Bridge (GLB132) and follows the edge of the high ground to the east of Danesmoor along the area where rebel reinforcements arrived and first witnessed the fighting in the lower ground below. Views westward from this trail between Trafford Bridge and Danesmoor can also be considered to be key to understanding the battle.
- 6.4.25 Trafford Bridge (GLB132) although built in the 18th century is used for an annual commemoration ceremony of the battle and very probably stands in the location of an earlier crossing of the Cherwell (most probably a ford) that may have been one of the foci of the battle. As such, although a structure not contemporary with the battlefield, the bridge is an element of the Edgcote Battlefield landscape that contributes to its value.
- 6.4.26 Although probably lying outside of the area that the battle was fought the meadows (GLB146) along the Cherwell between Trafford Bridge (GLB132) and Trafford House (GLB148) and the deserted medieval village earthworks at Trafford (GLB147) are all very possibly features contemporary to the battle and therefore form external elements that contribute to the value of the Edgcote Battlefield landscape. These have been grouped within the Trafford Bridge to Trafford House landscape component (GLB226).
- 6.4.27 The battlefield has an important historical association and the good degree of visual integrity allows it to be understood within the local landscape.

- 6.4.28 The conjoined landscapes of Edgcote Parkland (GLB134) and between Trafford Bridge and Trafford House (GLB226) therefore contain appreciable elements of the medieval landscape that would have existed in 1469. It is interesting to note that the Cherwell Valley to either side of Trafford Bridge appears to have contained an almost unbroken chain of ponds and leats that would probably have formed a considerable barrier to any fighting. These features are not mentioned in any of the accounts of the battle making it unlikely that the fighting took place across the Cherwell at Trafford Bridge.
- 6.4.29 The whole area is very isolated within a triangle of routeways and is very peaceful and contributes to its value.

6.5 Historically important hedgerows

- 6.5.1 Twenty-nine hedgerows within extending into the land required to construct the Proposed Scheme are important under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (Criteria for Archaeology and History). These hedgerows predominantly lie within the identified historic landscape components of the 17th century enclosures around Greatworth (GLB220), Thorpe Mandeville and Lower Thorpe landscape (GLB224), Edgcote Battlefield (GLB108 and the Lower Boddington landscape (GLB228).

7 Archaeological character

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 To determine the archaeological potential for the study area, it was sub-divided into archaeological character areas. These archaeological character areas are derived from a consideration of the current topography, geology and current land use of the area. From these factors the potential for recovery of archaeological remains are considered.
- 7.1.2 From these broad character areas, the landscape was further subdivided into Archaeological sub-zones, which have allowed for a more in-depth understanding of the archaeological potential of the study area.
- 7.1.3 Although initially defined and characterised by current land use, a number of additional factors have determined the potential of these sub-zones to contain archaeological remains of significance. These factors include topography, geology, historic character and distribution of known archaeological finds, sites and assets.

7.2 Character areas

- 7.2.1 The archaeological character areas described below extend from south to north within the study area.

Archaeological character area 1: Oolitic upland with till

- 7.2.2 This area is characterised by a relatively open and gently undulating landform overlying Jurassic Oolitic limestones and ironstones, which are largely capped throughout by deposits of glacial till and boulder clay. Generally there are good soils on areas where the capping of till is absent and in these areas aerial photography produces good results. Areas capped by till generally have poorer quality soils and aerial photography on these areas produces patchy results.
- 7.2.3 This area forms a gently incised watershed and interfluvium between the catchments of the River Great Ouse draining to the south and east and the Cherwell draining to the west. The area appears to have been a frontier area in the later prehistoric period and again during the Anglo/Danish period when this watershed broadly defined the southern and western edge of the Danelaw in which Scandinavian rule became established.
- 7.2.4 As an interfluvium there is a good potential for the presence of Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age activity relating to movement between, and exploitation of, adjacent valley systems. Scatters of Neolithic and Bronze Age flints near Dean Barn suggest that this interfluvium was utilised by these periods and there is a possibility that Bronze Age ring-ditches (ploughed out round barrows) have been identified on aerial photographs to the east of Greatworth.
- 7.2.5 To the south-west beyond the Cherwell in the limestone districts of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire there is good evidence for late prehistoric and Romano-British settlement and especially for the establishment of villa estates. Crop marks suggest that late prehistoric and Romano-British settlement is present in this area but

evidence for villas is lacking. Surveys elsewhere in Northamptonshire suggest, however, that this lack of villas may be a construct of the lack of archaeological activity.

- 7.2.6 The area is now characterised by nucleated villages within a landscape generally created by relatively early private and parliamentary enclosure with some later amalgamation. Many of the field boundaries may date to the earlier 18th or 17th centuries (or even earlier) and there is good survival of hedgerows that may be of historic importance throughout.

Archaeological character area 2: Cherwell headwater within Lias at Lower Thorpe

- 7.2.7 This area is one characterised by a relatively steeply incised valley form cutting through the Oolitic formations into the underlying mudstones, sandstones and shales of the Lias.
- 7.2.8 This area forms part of the incised watershed and interfluvium between the catchments of the River Great Ouse and the Cherwell but the drainage is orientated northward to the Cherwell.
- 7.2.9 The area appears to have been part of a frontier area in the later prehistoric period and again during the Anglo/Danish period when this watershed broadly defined the southern and western edge of the Danelaw with the placenames of Thorpe Mandeville and Lower Thorpe clearly demonstrating a local Danish influence.
- 7.2.10 In this area the valley passes between two ridges of higher ground where Oolitic limestones and Northampton sandstones are present, uncapped by till. There is clear cropmark evidence for likely prehistoric and Romano-British enclosed settlements on these unmasked and relatively permeable geologies.
- 7.2.11 The valley in which Lower Thorpe lies is predominantly pasture with some good local survival of historic hedgerows.

Archaeological character area 3: Cherwell headwaters within Lias near Culworth Grounds

- 7.2.12 This area is one characterised by a relatively steeply incised valley form cutting through the Oolitic formations into the underlying mudstones, sandstones and shales of the Lias.
- 7.2.13 This area forms part of the incised watershed and interfluvium between the catchments of the River Great Ouse and the Cherwell but the drainage is orientated northward to the Cherwell.
- 7.2.14 The area appears to have been part of a frontier area in the later prehistoric period and again during the Anglo/Danish period when this watershed broadly defined the southern and western edge of the Danelaw.
- 7.2.15 In this area the valley passes between two ridges of higher ground where Oolitic limestones and Northampton sandstones are present, uncapped by till. There is clear

cropmark evidence for likely prehistoric and Romano-British enclosed settlements on these unmasked and relatively permeable geologies.

Archaeological character area 4: Cherwell Valley

- 7.2.16 The Cherwell Valley comprises a catchment basin surrounded by higher ground. To the south and east lies the upland Oolitic plateau which falls into the Cherwell Valley between Lower Thorpe and Culworth. To the north rises the Lias ridge on which Chipping Warden Airfield lies and to the west is the higher ground of Edgcote Hill.
- 7.2.17 The Cherwell Valley forms a roughly triangular area of lower lying and relatively flat ground between these areas of higher ground and incorporates both the main valley floor as the river meanders past Trafford, Trafford Bridge and Edgcote and the flat ground of Danesmoor that occupies the tributary valley that feeds the Cherwell from the south.
- 7.2.18 This triangular area lies at the confluence of the Cherwell with three minor tributaries: the first of these descends from the Oolitic upland to the south passing through Lower Thorpe and thence passing close to Culworth before joining the Cherwell between Trafford and Trafford Bridge. The second tributary again flows southward from the Oolitic upland near Thorpe Mandeville, crossing Danesmoor to join the Cherwell at Trafford Bridge. The third is a very minor stream flowing from the north to join the Cherwell at Trafford.
- 7.2.19 As a confluence of valley systems and with what was once an important river crossing this area is likely to have a high archaeological potential. The valley floor could contain archaeological horizons buried within and below the alluvium and there is a high potential for the recovery of palaeoenvironmental and waterlogged remains.
- 7.2.20 It will be particularly important to understand how and when the crossing at Trafford Bridge developed. The area forms part of a headwater draining an interfluvium towards the Thames and will, therefore, probably have formed an important through route between the river systems of the Itchen to the north, Nene to the north and east, Cherwell and Thames to the west and south-west and Ouse to the south and east.
- 7.2.21 The area once again appears to have been part of a frontier area in the later prehistoric period and again during the Anglo/Danish period when this watershed broadly defined the southern and western edge of the Danelaw.
- 7.2.22 Holocene alluvium is present in the valley floor of the Cherwell and the lowest reaches of its tributaries. The area is relatively poorly drained and the floodplain is predominantly pasture.

Archaeological character area 5: Lias upland overlooking Cherwell Headwaters

- 7.2.23 This is the edge of a plateau overlooking the Cherwell to south-east and tributary to the north with good views to north, west and south over the headwater system of the Cherwell and the catchment of the Itchen to the north. The underlying geology is primarily the Marlstone and Whitby Mudstones of the Lias, which on the rising ground support relatively well drained soils.

7.2.24 As an area of higher ground above a confluence of valley systems and with this area is likely to have a high archaeological potential. It is in particular an excellent location for Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age activity exploiting the edge of an interfluvium and is a typical locality for later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age ceremonial activity. Most hilltops in this area possess the cropmarks of likely prehistoric enclosures and associated features.

7.2.25 Ring ditches appear to be present as cropmarks within the perimeter of the airfield at Chipping Warden, a locality which has also produced a Bronze Age axe hoard.

Archaeological character area 6: Cherwell Tributary Valley

7.2.26 This is a poorly drained valley floor associated with the Highfurlong Brook a tributary of the Cherwell. This valley will have been a poor location for settlement and associated activity but may contain important palaeoenvironmental evidence within the alluvium that caps the Charmouth Mudstone in the valley floor.

7.2.27 The area is now characterised by relatively late parliamentary enclosure with some later amalgamation. Many of the field boundaries date to at least early 19th century (or even earlier) but there is relatively good survival of hedgerows that have been identified as being historically important adjacent to the Highfurlong Brook.

Archaeological character area 7: Lias Lowland

7.2.28 This is a poorly drained and gently undulating lowland area underlain by the Charmouth Mudstone of the Lias. This lowland area will have been a poor location for settlement and associated activity. Modern settlement is mainly confined to islands of higher ground such as at Upper and Lower Bodington and at Claydon and it is likely that more ancient settlement will follow the same pattern.

7.3 Archaeological sub-zones

7.3.1 The archaeological sub-zones are presented in the table below from south to north. An indication of archaeological potential for each sub-zone provided.

Table 1: Archaeological sub-zones

Number	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic character	Archaeology
1	Greatworth parkland boundary	Gently undulating plateau with trend to south facing slope.	Oolite capped by till.	Mainly arable.	Enclosure landscape with survival of possible medieval park pale and may have lain within Salcey/Whittlewood Forest.	Potential medieval park pale and known cropmark site (GLB007).
2	Halse Copse South	Gently undulating plateau with trend to south facing slope.	Oolite capped by till.	Ancient Woodland.	Ancient Woodland potentially within Salcey/Whittlewood Forest.	Potential woodland features such as woodbanks Ancient Woodland (GLB010.)
3	South facing slope on south-western edge of interfluvium	Gently undulating plateau with trend to south facing slope.	Oolite capped by till.	Mainly arable.	Enclosure landscape and may have lain within Salcey/Whittlewood Forest.	Cropmark sites and some survival of ridge and furrow (GLB007 and 008). Two potential Bronze Age ring-ditches identified as cropmarks to the east of Greatworth.
4	Tributary stream within Oolite plateau	Gently undulating plateau with north facing slope.	Oolite capped by till.	Mainly arable.	Enclosure landscape and may have lain within Salcey/Whittlewood Forest.	None recorded but good location for settlement activity.
5	Halse Copse North.	Gently undulating plateau with trend to south facing slope.	Oolite capped by till.	Ancient Woodland.	Ancient Woodland potentially within Salcey/Whittlewood Forest.	Potential woodland feature such as woodbanks Ancient Woodland (GLB015).
6	Stream side slopes near Greatworth	Minor stream valley within western edge of plateau.	Oolite capped with till.	Mainly arable.	Enclosure landscape and may have lain within Salcey/Whittlewood Forest.	Good location for settlement and evidence for prehistoric, Roman and early medieval activity is recorded near Park Spinney south west of Greatworth.
7	North facing slope overlooking stream near Stuchbury Manor Farm	Minor valley within plateau land.	Oolite capped with till.	Mainly arable.	Enclosure landscape and may have lain within Salcey/Whittlewood Forest.	Possible prehistoric/Romano-British site near Park Spinney south west of Greatworth identified on valley margins.
8	Plateau land at Greatworth	Gently undulating plateau with trend to	Oolite capped with till.	Mainly arable with historic settlement at	Enclosure landscape and historic settlement.	Good location for settlement and evidence for prehistoric, Romano-British and early

Number	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic character	Archaeology
		south facing slope between minor streams.		Greatworth.		medieval activity is recorded near Park Spinney south west of Greatworth around Greatworth (GLBo28 and 035).
9	Northampton and Banbury Junction Railway	Minor stream valley within western edge of plateau.	Oolite capped with till.	Disused railway line.	Disused railway line.	Good location for settlement and evidence for prehistoric, Romano-British and early medieval activity is recorded near Park Spinney south west of Greatworth but likely truncated by railway.
10	Dean Barn plateau	Undulating plateau within inter-fluve.	Oolite capped with till.	Mainly arable.	Enclosure landscape.	Typical area for Mesolithic and Early Neolithic activity and finds from near Dean Barn (GLBo50 and 051) appear to confirm this. Cropmark sites near Magpie Farm and possible Anglo-Saxon cemetery north of Marston Hill Farm (GLBo49).
11	Costow valleyside	North facing slope into tributary valley of Cherwell.	Oolite exposure on valley slopes with Lias formations exposed lower down.	Mainly pasture.	Enclosure landscape.	Deserted medieval settlement at Costow (GLBo72).
12	Magpie Farm valley side	North facing slope into tributary valley of Cherwell.	Oolite exposure on valley slopes with Lias formations exposed lower down.	Mainly pasture.	Enclosure landscape.	Cropmark sites (GLBo67 and 068) at top of tributary stream valley.
13	Thorpe Mandeville Ponds	Tributary valley floor.	Whitby Mudstone of Lias.	Mainly pasture and woodland with ponds.	Manorial fishpond landscape within possibly early enclosures.	Medieval fishponds (GLBo78).
14	Lower Thorpe Farmhouse Ponds	Tributary valley.	Whitby Mudstone of Lias.	Pasture with extensive pond system and some woodland.	Medieval/post-medieval ponds within possibly early enclosures.	Medieval water management system associated with possible mill and/or industry (GLBo85 and 086).
15	North Facing valley slope at Lower Thorpe	North facing slope above Cherwell tributary.	Whitby Mudstone of Lias.	Predominantly pasture.	Potentially early enclosure landscape with some survival of ridge and furrow.	Between settlements at Thorpe Mandeville and Lower Thorpe. Within open field system.
16	Hill Farm Ridge Top	Low ridge between tributaries of Cherwell.	Exposure of Oolitic Taynton Stone and	Predominantly pasture.	Enclosure landscape with much ridge and furrow surviving disturbed in parts by later	Well drained low ridge top between small valleys makes this a good location for settlement. Cropmarks of prehistoric and/or

Number	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic character	Archaeology
			Northampton Sand.		quarrying.	Romano-British site evident near Hill Farm. Local stone has been quarried in the post-medieval period disturbing ridge and furrow.
17	Culworth Grounds Valley Sides	South facing valley slope in Cherwell Headwater.	Exposure of Oolitic Blisworth Stone with Whitby Mudstone of Lias further down.	Predominantly pasture on valley side, arable towards plateau.	Potentially early enclosure landscape with some survival of ridge and furrow.	South facing slope on limestone overlooking tributary valley makes this a good location for past activity. Scheduled monument of a mound (GLB083) could be a round barrow and is certainly in a typical false crest location. It could, however, be a mill mound.
18	Banbury branch of Great Central Railway	Following a contour alongside of a low ridge within headwater system.	Whitby Mudstone of the Lias.	Disused railway line.	Disused railway line.	Lower north facing slope of a ridge will be unlikely location for early activity and even if present will have been truncated by the railway.
19	Ridge top to west of Culworth Grounds	South facing gentle slope and flat ridge top between tributary streams of Cherwell.	Outcrop of Oolitic Northampton Sand on ridge top over Whitby Mudstone.	Predominantly arable.	Modified enclosure landscape with some later field amalgamation.	Low well drained ridge and south facing slope between Cherwell headwaters is a good location for past settlement. Extensive cropmarks of enclosures and linear features (GLB105) evident on the ridge.
20	Lower slopes west of Culworth Grounds	Lower part of south facing slope.	Whitby Mudstone of the Lias.	Predominantly arable.	Enclosure landscape.	Lower part of south facing slope is a possible location for past settlement, but this activity is more likely to be found on adjacent ridges.
21	Ridge north of Hill Farm	Low ridge extending northward into Cherwell Valley.	Whitby Mudstone of the Lias.	Predominantly arable.	Modified enclosure landscape with some later field amalgamation.	Relatively good location for past settlement but better locations on Oolite nearby.
22	Danesmoor	Valley floor of Cherwell headwater.	Whitby Mudstone of the Lias.	Predominantly arable.	Modified enclosure landscape with some later field amalgamation.	Valley floor, possibly former low lying moor prone to flooding. Would generally be considered poor location for archaeological activity but is likely site of Battle of Edgcote.
23	Rising ground above confluence of	Gentle valley slope trending to north	Whitby Mudstone of Lias capped in part by Fluvio-	Predominantly arable.	Modified enclosure landscape with some later field	Rising ground above confluence of streams with Cherwell makes this a relatively good

Number	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic character	Archaeology
	Cherwell tributaries	facing.	Glacial deposits.		amalgamation.	location for past activity.
24	Cherwell Valley	Valley floor.	Marlstone and Dyrham Sands of the Lias overlain by alluvium.	Predominantly pasture.	Possibly early enclosure.	Valley floor. Poor location for settlement activity but good palaeoenvironmental potential and possibility of early river crossing mill and meadow water management near Trafford Bridge.
25	Lower Slopes of Edgcote Hill	Gentle north-east facing slope.	Whitby Mudstone of the Lias.	Predominantly Arable.	Modified enclosure landscape with some later field amalgamation.	Rising ground on northerly facing slope overlooking valley makes this a good location for earlier prehistoric activity but maybe not for later prehistoric or later activity.
26	Edgcote Parkland	Gentle north facing slope and valley floor of Cherwell.	Marlstone and Dyrham Sands of the Lias overlain by alluvium.	Parkland and riverside woodland.	1740s and later designed landscape.	Slopes above valley floor may have potential for earlier prehistoric activity and valley floor has palaeo-environmental potential as well as containing water management system for mill.
27	Blackgrounds and Edgcote valley side	Gentle south-east facing slope above Cherwell Valley.	Marlstone and Dyrham Sands of the Lias.	Pasture on lower slope, arable higher up.	Enclosure landscape.	Southerly facing slope above valley floor and adjacent to historic (and potentially earlier) routeway and river crossing has very high potential. This is proved by presence of scheduled monument of Edgcote Roman villa (GLB138) and associated activity around Blackgrounds (GLB144). Possible Romano-British roadside and industrial settlement with Iron Age precursor and early medieval successor.
28	Rising ground north of Blackgrounds	Gentle south-east facing slope above Cherwell Valley.	Marlstone and Dyrham Sands of the Lias.	Predominantly arable.	Enclosure landscape with some surviving ridge and furrow (GLB153) evident.	Southerly facing slope above valley floor would normally be considered good location for past activity, but there are recognised sites close by on similar topography at Blackgrounds (GLB138/144) and Jobs Hill (GLB149 and 155) which suggest that

Number	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic character	Archaeology
						activity here is less likely.
29	Chipping Warden Airfield	Flat plateau within Cherwell headwater.	Whitby Mudstone of the Lias.	Former airfield partly returned to arable.	World War II Airfield.	Plateau on edge of Cherwell headwater system and also overlooking Itchen catchment to north. Excellent location for past activity including potential prehistoric ceremonial complexes, suggested by cropmarks (GLB165) and a find of Bronze Age axe hoard. Archaeological deposits may be truncated by features associated with the World War II airfield.
30	North facing slope near Aston-le-Walls	Relatively steep north facing slope into tributary valley of Cherwell.	Marlstone and Dyrham Sands of the Lias on upper slope overlying Charmouth Mudstone of the Lias lower down.	Predominantly pasture on upper slopes. Some arable lower down.	Modified enclosure landscape with some later field amalgamation.	North facing slope unlikely location for early activity.
31	East and West Junction Railway	Following contour at base of north facing slope.	Charmouth Mudstone of the Lias.	Disused railway.	Disused railway.	North facing slope unlikely location for past activity and likely truncation by railway.
32	Valley of Highfurlong Brook	Valley floor.	Charmouth Mudstone of the Lias overlain by alluvium.	Predominantly arable.	Modified enclosure landscape with some later field amalgamation.	Relatively poorly drained valley floor unlikely location for early activity but good palaeo-environmental potential.
33	Undulating Lias lowland	Gently undulating but trending towards south-easterly slope overlooking Highfurlong Brook.	Charmouth Mudstone of the Lias.	Predominantly arable with some market garden.	Modified enclosure landscape with some later field amalgamation and very good survival of ridge and furrow.	Relatively poorly drained but with good south-easterly aspect overlooking Cherwell tributary make this a relatively good locality for past activity. Presence of cropmark sites near Three Shires (GLB202 and 208) and Fox Covert (GLB211) support this.

8 Analysis and research potential

8.1 Analysis of understanding

8.1.1 Human activity through all periods in the study area has largely been concentrated in the principal valley systems specifically within and immediately adjacent to the valley of the Cherwell. The valley of the Cherwell could have been used as a natural corridor for movement to and from the Northamptonshire uplands but may also have formed a natural boundary. The valley of the Cherwell would also have provided significant resources from the riparian environment. As an area of watershed, the higher ground may also have provided access between the valley system of the Great Ouse and those of the Tovey (feeding to the Nene).

8.1.2 Key archaeological sites have been identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs and/or during archaeological investigations within the land required for construction of the Proposed Scheme. These comprise:

- Halse Copse South Ancient Woodland (GLBo10);
- the historic structures at RAF Greatworth (GLBo36);
- potential earlier prehistoric (Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age features) near Dean Barn (GLBo50);
- probable late prehistoric/Romano-British activity to the west of Moreton Road (GLBo56);
- probable late prehistoric/Romano-British activity between Moreton and Banbury Roads (GLBo61);
- the medieval fishponds between Costow House and Thorpe Mandeville (GLBo78);
- archaeology associated with the water management system and possible medieval/early post-medieval mill/industrial complex at Lower Thorpe (GLBo85);
- probable late prehistoric settlement activity including enclosures associated with prehistoric pottery and flint on the ridgeline and environs north-west of Culworth Grounds (GLB105);
- potential buried paleoenvironmental remains and remains of a possible mill site and ancient river crossing at Trafford Bridge (GLB131);
- potential buried archaeological remains associated with the Battle of Edgcote (GLB108);
- buried archaeological remains associated with known Roman settlement and potential Iron Age and early medieval activity at Blackgrounds (GLB144) (adjacent to the scheduled monument of Edgcote Roman Villa (GLB138));
- ridge and furrow to the south of Calves Close Spinney (GLB154);

- potential buried archaeological remains of Bronze Age date at Chipping Warden Airfield (GLB165);
- ridge and furrow to the south-east of Lower Boddington (GLB189);
- potential late prehistoric/Romano-British activity to south of Three Shires (GLB202);
- ridge and furrow to the north-west of Lower Boddington (GLB199);
- potential late prehistoric/Romano-British activity to south of Three Shires (GLB208); and
- potential late prehistoric/Romano-British activity at Fox Covert (GLB211).

8.1.3 Three archaeological character areas have been identified which have an identified potential for significant archaeology to lie within them. These are: archaeological character area 2, 3 and 4.

8.1.4 Within the valley of the Cherwell (archaeological character area 4) and its tributaries there will be a potential for waterlogged and other deposits of palaeoenvironmental interest. Archaeological deposits may also be relatively deeply buried in these localities by the build-up of alluvium (and peat) in the valley floors and colluvium on the lower slopes

8.1.5 The geology of the area generally favours the identification of sites through cropmarks visible to aerial photography. Northamptonshire has been part of the English Heritage National Mapping Project and cropmark sites are relatively well represented, especially where limestones outcrop and are not covered in Till.

8.1.6 There is considered to be potential for encountering further unrecorded archaeological assets and features throughout the study area, particularly of late prehistoric/Romano-British date, but also including the potential for evidence for Mesolithic and Neolithic exploitation of the interfluvium between the headwaters of the Cherwell, Nene and Great Ouse.

8.1.7 There is a considerable research potential within the study area to further the understanding of the archaeology and landscape evolution of the interfluvium between the Rivers Great Ouse, Nene and Cherwell, and to apply this within overarching regional and national perspectives.

8.1.8 The Historic Landscape Character within the study area is predominantly one formed by private and parliamentary enclosure during the post-medieval period. Much of the enclosure was private and had occurred before 1800 but this was later modified by Parliamentary Act in the later 18th to early 19th centuries. Within this framework there is some survival of earlier landscapes, principally the remains of medieval ridge and furrow indicating where areas of open field once existed around settlements.

8.2 Research potential and priorities

8.2.1 This section presents research questions which are specific to the heritage assets, either known or suspected, within the CFA15 study area. The archaeological character

areas which are likely to contain the potential to address these questions are identified.

- 8.2.2 Many research questions can best be formulated at either a scheme wide or at a county/multiple study area (CFA) level. These will draw heavily on the regional and period research frameworks which have been prepared with support from English Heritage⁷⁰.

Research Questions

Early Prehistory

- can our knowledge of earliest hominin activity in region be refined and the hypothesis that there was no pre-Levallois activity in this section of East Midlands tested? (All archaeological character areas)
- is there any activity associated with hominin exploitation of the southern margin of the Ancaster/Bytham River system?
- Is there any palaeoenvironmental information that will help to shed light on the Palaeolithic development of the landscape with particular emphasis on recording the formation of Till deposits on the plateau areas and the creation of the valley systems of the Ouse and Cherwell? (All archaeological character areas)

Prehistory

- how was the interfluvium between the Cherwell, Ouse and Nene river systems used during the prehistoric period? Can it provide evidence to help establish patterns of subsistence and mobility within and across an important intra-riparine upland and its margins? (All archaeological character areas)
- did local rivers, and particularly the confluences of the Cherwell Headwaters near Edgcote, act as a focus for ritual/ceremonial activity and if so what is its date and how did it develop over time. How early is the crossing point of the Cherwell at Trafford Bridge (GLB132)? Was it important during the Neolithic to Early Bronze Age and what might this mean for the development of the routeway along the course of Welsh Lane (GLB115)? (archaeological character area 4)
- can the enclosures near Culworth Grounds (GLB105) help to refine our understanding of when and why enclosed settlements of this type developed, what were their functions, and how do they fit the settlement hierarchy? How long were they in use and did their form and function change over time? (archaeological character area 3)
- can the cropmark sites near Halse Copse (GLB007), Greatworth, Moreton and Banbury Roads (GLB056 and GLB061) and the potential late prehistoric site at Edgcote (GLB138/144) contribute to our understanding of when and how

⁷⁰ Knight, D., Vyner, B. and Allen C., (2012), *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*, Buxton Press, Buxton.

“ladder” settlements developed through the late prehistoric and Roman periods and how they related to each other and other site typologies? Can site hierarchies be recognised? (archaeological character area 1, 2 and 4)

Roman

- it has been posited that Welsh Lane may be a very ancient routeway later followed by Roman, Saxon and medieval roads. Can it be established when this routeway first became established and how did it influence the distribution of settlement patterns and activities? (archaeological character area 4 and 5)
- there is evidence from Blackgrounds (GLB144) of metalworking. Can this inform on the exploitation of the local iron bearing strata at the interface of the Oolite with the Lias and how can this be related to the development of iron working in the wider region, including sites in Salcey and Rockingham Forests? (archaeological character area 4 and 5)
- at Edgcote there is what may be a Romano-British villa or roadside settlement/small town (GLB138/144). How does the Roman occupation correspond to any Iron Age predecessor and can it be proven that Welsh Lane was a Roman road. If so when was it established or does it follow the course of an earlier route? (archaeological character area 4 and 5)
- can a crossing of the Cherwell at Trafford Bridge be identified and if so what form did it take? How did settlement and activity change through the 5th and possibly into the 6th century? Is there, as seems likely, a burial ground and in which case does it develop from a Romano-British cemetery and can the chronology be established along with the changes in burial rites/customs? What might this say about ethnicity and/or societal development? (archaeological character area 4)

Early medieval

- Thorpe Mandeville (GLBo80) and Lower Thorpe (GLBo86) are both Danish derived names and had a Danish lord in 1066. Is any Scandinavian influence archaeologically visible?
- there is reputed to have been a battle at Danesmoor between Saxon and Danes in AD 967 (GLB108). Can any evidence for conflict of this date, either battlefield remains or burials be found near Danesmoor or anywhere else in the study area? (archaeological character area 3 and 4)

Medieval and post-medieval

- can any woodland or wooded hedges be identified which may have a medieval origin - specifically at Halse Copse (GLBo10), on the line of the possible park pale of Greatworth Park (GLBo03) and within the pasturelands around Lower Thorpe and Cherwell Valley/Danesmoor? (archaeological character areas 1 -3)
- what is the date and processes of settlement decline/shrinkage at Costow (GLBo72), Lower Thorpe (GLBo86) and Lower Boddington (GLB201)? Is there any evidence to indicate that there was also a decline in dispersed settlement?

(archaeological character area 2)

- what is the date, construction, development and use of the fishponds in the valley between Costow House (GLBo78) and Lower Thorpe and the larger system of ponds to the east of Lower Thorpe (GLBo85/o86). Are there any mills on either of these pond systems and if so, what were they processing? (archaeological character area 3)
- why and how were the ponds at Lower Thorpe (GLBo85) constructed; how do they relate to potentially buried features under Lower Thorpe Farmhouse (within asset grouping GLBo86) and what sort of industry or milling may be represented? The identification of a possible bloomery hammer stone in the grounds at Lower Thorpe Farmhouse is of particular interest. Are these ponds pond bays for a bloomery/foundry and if so what is their date and period of use (Tudor?) (archaeological character area 3)
- what is the evidence for woodland management, animal and crop husbandry and the use of more marginal soils such as of the Till capped upland and Lias lowland? Were there periods of colonisation of these supposedly more marginal areas and any evidence for subsequent declines? If so can these be dated? (archaeological character areas 1-3 and archaeological character area 5)
- what was the nature of the use of the Cherwell Valley between Edgcote and Trafford in the medieval and post-medieval periods? Was there a mill and associated infrastructure near Trafford Bridge? Are there water management systems for meadowland in the valley floor? Is there any evidence for millpond(s)/fishponds within the Edgcote parkland? (archaeological character area 4)
- a major battle was fought at Edgcote in 1469 (GLB108). What was the principal location of the fighting and line of any rout? Can any remains inform on the nature of late 15th century warfare in Britain in general and the scale and nature of the fighting at Edgcote in particular? (archaeological character area 3 and 4)

Modern

- what was the nature of any related military structures associated with Chipping Warden airfield (GLB162), for example anti-air defences, airfield defence features (pill boxes, ball headquarters etc), shelters, magazines, hardstandings and outlying facilities such as the structures at Calves Close Spinney (GLB154) ? (archaeological character area 5)
- can the airfield at Chipping Warden (GLB162) be used as an example of how airfield construction affects the preservation of earlier archaeological features? (archaeological character area 5)

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1761. Marston St Lawrence Enclosure Map

1806. Thorpe Mandeville Enclosure Map 1806

1868. (circa) Upper Boddington Re-drafted Enclosure Map

Estate maps

1550. (circa) Map of Aston-le-Walls

1743. Plan of the Edgcote Estate (In Strutt S 2008))

1780. William Chauncy's Estate at Aston-le-Walls

1805. Greatworth Estate Map

1807. (circa) Plan of the Edgcote Estate from the Terrier (In Strutt S (2008))

1838. Upper Boddington Estate Map

1851. Thorpe Mandeville Rectory Estate

Tithe Maps

1837. Chipping Warden Tithe Map

1839. Culworth Tithe Map

1840. Edgcote Tithe Plan

1851. Aston le-Walls Tithe Map

1853. Greatworth Tithe Apportionment (alteration)

1871. Marston St Lawrence Tithe Map

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